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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause in Your presence, and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Enable them, O God, to act on what they believe to be right and just, and to do so in ways that show respect for those with whom they disagree. In this, may they grow to be models and good examples in a time when so many in our world are unable to engage gracefully with those with whom they are at odds.

As we approach this next recess, and the celebration of the birth of our Nation, bless our great Nation, and keep it faithful to its ideals, its hopes, and its promise of freedom in our world.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. YODER 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 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK LETTER

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a letter from a 10-year-old, Stephanie Santilli of Philippi, West Virginia. She wrote:

Seven-and-a-half years ago on October 4, 2007, my Uncle Jim passed away due to pancreatic cancer. His cancer was found too late because of being misdiagnosed too many times, and a CT scan finally found the cancer. His son Isaac was only 9 when his father died. He is missed by so many. I hope that some day a cure a found so other families don't have to go through the same pain we have.

Her story is just one of many across the Nation. For every 100 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, only six survive.

Madam Speaker, by funding the research to develop a cure, we honor Stephanie's uncle and those we have lost to pancreatic cancer.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST TERRY J. HURNE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in honor of the life of Terry J. Hurne, United States Army Specialist, who died on June 9, 2014. Terry made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States in the Logar province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Hurne was raised in Atwater, California, graduated from Atwater High School, and joined the military in 2007. During his time in the Army, Terry served two tours in Afghanistan, and for the past 5 years, he served as a generator mechanic and a builder. He was assigned to Company B, 710 Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, stationed in Fort Drum, New York.

His family and friends will hold memories of Terry in their hearts forever. His smile, his laughter, his kindness to everyone will never, ever be forgotten; his fondness for sports, and a big lover of animals, especially his dog Trinity. He will be remembered as a hero who fought for our freedoms.

Terry is survived by his wife, Natalie, as well as his father, his mother, stepmother, three sisters, and a brother.

It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of our fallen soldier, Army Specialist Terry Hurne, an American patriot who did extraordinary things.

God bless him.

CELEBRATING EDNA YODER'S 103RD BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating my grandmother Edna Yoder's birthday.

Born on June 28, 1911, my grandmother will turn 103 on Saturday, and I couldn't be prouder of her. She and my grandfather, Orie Yoder, spent their lives working on a farm and raising their four children, including my father, Wayne Yoder. She is a very principled and humble woman who believes strongly in her family and her faith.

Over the past 103 years she has lived through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and two world wars, to name a few. She has seen a lot, and to this day tells great stories, has a wonderful and cheery sense of humor, and, of course, dispenses plenty of advice.

Each day when I get up in a nation of prosperity and freedom, I think of my grandmother and people of her generation who worked themselves to the bone, who helped build this great country so that their children and children's children would have the opportunity to realize their dreams.

Today, my grandmother spends her time working puzzles, playing games, playing in the bell choir, and, of course, keeping up with her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-great-grandchildren.

Grandma, happy 103rd birthday to you.

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Voting Rights Amendment Act. This is a critical piece of bipartisan legislation in response to the Supreme Court's ruling, Shelby County v. Holder, that was handed down exactly 1 year ago this week.

This decision undid critical voting protections that have proven effective over the years and that Congress has reauthorized as early as 2006. The Voting Rights Amendment will do several things, among them: enhance the power of Federal courts to stop discriminatory voting changes from being implemented, create new nationwide transparency requirements that help keep communities informed about voting changes in their community, and continue the Federal observer program that combats racial discrimination at the polls.

Voter discrimination is not just a problem of the past but is very much alive today. In fact, since the 2013 decision, there have been 10 voting changes across the country that have raised concerns about voting discrimination.

As Representatives in a democratic government, we have a duty to prevent voter discrimination and make sure that every citizen's voice is heard.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam Speaker, last summer more than 100 businesses attended a forum I held in Schaumburg, Illinois, to learn more about the benefits of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Since then, businesses in my district have told me time and again how the bank's services keep them competitive in the global marketplace and create good-paying American jobs. They know we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank now.

For decades, the Export-Import Bank has helped American exporters sell their products overseas. It provides their financing, credit, and insurance to grow their businesses abroad when other options are simply not available. Last year, these investments led to $37.4 billion in exports that created more than 200,000 jobs right here in America.

This week, a USA Today editorial stated:

> One of the most vexing economic developments in recent decades has been the decline in manufacturing jobs. An industry that employed nearly 25 percent of the workforce in the 1970s today accounts for only 7.8 percent . . . The loss of these jobs has reduced opportunities for people without a college degree to move into the middle class.

Madam Speaker, we can't abandon the American manufacturing and the American middle class. Bring up the bill I helped introduce, H.R. 4950, and let's reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, now is not the time for the Trans-Pacific Partnership or fast track legislation. Five years into our economic recovery, high unemployment and stagnant incomes continue to keep consumer spending down. American families still cannot make ends meet. For too many people, that is the reality. Meanwhile, we are being asked to pass fast track legislation for TPP, and I think it is a threat to American jobs.

How do we know? We have already tried this 20 years ago when we passed NAFTA. Similar to TPP, NAFTA promised to create jobs, 200,000 Americans jobs every year, but they didn't materialize. Instead, the United States lost more than a million jobs. In Minnesota, more than 13,000 workers were displaced.

We don't want to see this happen again. It is time to pass a trade bill that lifts labor standards around the world, not encourages a race to the bottom. We cannot afford to offshore any more of our jobs. Let's pass a good trade bill.

RECOGNIZING MR. HERSCHEL LUCKINBILL FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herschel Luckinbill of Montgomery, Illinois, as the Illinois Veteran of the Month for June 2014. The title of Veteran of the Month is bestowed upon individuals who have been exceptionally dedicated to honoring veterans and improving our community.

A Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, Mr. Luckinbill has taken great effort to continue his service beyond Active Duty. As a member of the Aurora Veterans Advisory Council, Mr. Luckinbill represents the interests of veterans in our community. Mr. Luckinbill organized efforts to bring The Vietnam Moving Wall to Aurora in 2013, giving the community and the next generation the opportunity to honor the fallen. Working as part of the organization Honor Flight Chicago, Mr. Luckinbill has helped World War II veterans fly to Washington to view the monuments that were erected in their honor.

We can never fully repay those who have risked and given their lives in service to our country, but because of the tireless efforts of advocates like Herschel Luckinbill, their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Herschel Luckinbill for his service to our country and to veterans in our community.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4899.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, with Ms. FOXX (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, all time for general debate had expired.

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

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–50. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4899

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 ''Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is the following:

TITLE I—OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS

Subtitle A—Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program Reforms

SEC. 10101. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING PROGRAM REFORMS.

Section 18(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) In each oil and gas leasing program under this section, the Secretary shall make available for leasing and conduct lease sales including at least 50 percent of the available unleased acreage within each outer Continental Shelf planning area considered to have the largest undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources (on a total btu basis) based upon the most recent national geologic assessment of the outer Continental Shelf, with an emphasis on offering the most geologically prospective parts of the planning area.

''(B) The Secretary shall include in each proposed oil and gas leasing program under this section any State subdivision of an outer Continental Shelf planning area that the Governor of the State that represents that subdivision requests be made available for leasing. The Secretary may not remove such a subdivision from the program until publication of the final program, and shall include and consider all such subdivisions in any environmental review conducted and statement prepared for such program under section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

''(C) In this paragraph the term 'available unleased acreage' means that portion of the outer Continental Shelf that is not under lease at the time of a proposed lease sale, and that has not otherwise been made unavailable for leasing by law.

''(6)(A) In the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the Secretary shall make available for leasing any outer Continental Shelf planning areas that—

''(i) are estimated to contain more than 2,500,000,000 barrels of oil; or

''(ii) are estimated to contain more than 7,500,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

''(B) To determine the planning areas described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall

use the document entitled 'Minerals Management Service Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources of the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf, 2006'.''.

SEC. 10102. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.

Section 18(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing a 5-year oil and gas leasing program, and subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production goal for the development of oil and natural gas as a result of that program. Such goal shall be—

''(A) the best estimate of the possible increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the outer Continental Shelf;

''(B) focused on meeting domestic demand for oil and natural gas and reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy; and

''(C) focused on the production increases achieved by the leasing program at the end of the 15-year period beginning on the effective date of the program.

''(2) PROGRAM GOAL.—For purposes of the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the production goal referred to in paragraph (1) shall be an increase by 2032 of—

''(A) no less than 3,000,000 barrels in the amount of oil produced per day; and

''(B) no less than 10,000,000,000 cubic feet in the amount of natural gas produced per day.

''(3) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually, beginning at the end of the 5-year period for which the program applies, to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of the program in meeting the production goal. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and any problems with leasing, permitting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal.''.

SEC. 10103. DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMITTAL OF NEW 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) by not later than July 15, 2015, publish and submit to Congress a new proposed oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) for the 5-year period beginning on such date and ending July 15, 2021; and

(2) by not later than July 15, 2016, approve a final oil and gas leasing program under such section for such period.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF ALL AREAS.—In preparing such program the Secretary shall include consideration of areas of the Continental Shelf off the coasts of all States (as such term is defined in section 2 of that Act, as amended by this title), that are subject to leasing under this title.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 18(d)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(d)(3)) is amended by striking ''or after eighteen months following the date of enactment of this section, whichever first occurs,''.

SEC. 10104. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

Subtitle B—Directing the President To Conduct New OCS Sales

SEC. 10201. REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 220 ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the exclusion of Lease Sale 220 in the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) as soon as practicable, but not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE REPLACEMENT LEASE BLOCKS AVAILABLE.—For each lease block in a proposed lease sale under this section for which the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, under the Memorandum of Agreement referred to in section 10205(b), issues a statement proposing deferral from a lease offering due to defense-related activities that are irreconcilable with mineral exploration and development, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall make available in the same lease sale one other lease block in the Virginia lease sale planning area that is acceptable for oil and gas exploration and production in order to mitigate conflict.

(c) BALANCING MILITARY AND ENERGY PRODUCTION GOALS.—In recognition that the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and the domestic energy resources produced therefrom are integral to national security, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense shall work jointly in implementing this section in order to ensure achievement of the following common goals:

(1) Preserving the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to maintain an optimum state of readiness through their continued use of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(2) Allowing effective exploration, development, and production of our Nation's oil, gas, and renewable energy resources.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LEASE SALE 220.—The term ''Lease Sale 220'' means such lease sale referred to in the Request for Comments on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010–2015 and Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed 5-Year Program published January 21, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 3631).

(2) VIRGINIA LEASE SALE PLANNING AREA.—The term ''Virginia lease sale planning area'' means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (33 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) that is bounded by—

(A) a northern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the northernmost point of Virginia's seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 37 degrees 17 minutes 1 second North latitude, 71 degrees 5 minutes 16 seconds West longitude; and

(B) a southern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the southernmost point of Virginia's seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 36 degrees 31 minutes 58 seconds North latitude, 71 degrees 30 minutes 1 second West longitude.

SEC. 10202. SOUTH CAROLINA LEASE SALE.

Notwithstanding exclusion of the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area from the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a lease sale not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act for areas off the coast of South Carolina determined by the Secretary to have the most geologically promising hydrocarbon resources and constituting not less than 25 percent of the leasable area within the South Carolina offshore administrative boundaries depicted in the notice entitled ''Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Administrative Boundaries Extending from the Submerged Lands Act Boundary seaward to the Limit of the United States Outer Continental Shelf'', published January 3, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 127).

SEC. 10203. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE LEASE SALE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall offer for sale leases of tracts in the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara/Ventura Basins of the Southern California OCS Planning Area as soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 2015.

(b) USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES OR ONSHORE-BASED DRILLING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall include in leases offered for sale under this lease sale such terms and conditions as are necessary to require that development and production may occur only from offshore infrastructure in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act or from onshore-based, extended-reach drilling.

SEC. 10204. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this title, the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a multisale environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) for all lease sales required under this subtitle.

(b) ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.—Notwithstanding section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332), in such statement—

(1) the Secretary is not required to identify nonleasing alternative courses of action or to analyze the environmental effects of such alternative courses of action; and

(2) the Secretary shall only—

(A) identify a preferred action for leasing and not more than one alternative leasing proposal; and

(B) analyze the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures for such preferred action and such alternative leasing proposal.

SEC. 10205. NATIONAL DEFENSE.

(a) NATIONAL DEFENSE AREAS.—This title does not affect the existing authority of the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, to designate national defense areas on the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.—No person may engage in any exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf under a lease issued under this title that would conflict with any military operation, as determined in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf signed July 20, 1983, and any revision or replacement for that agreement that is agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior after that date but before the date of issuance of the lease under which such exploration, development, or production is conducted.

SEC. 10206. EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO NOT INCLUDED.

Nothing in this title affects restrictions on oil and gas leasing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109–432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

Subtitle C—Equitable Sharing of Outer Continental Shelf Revenues

SEC. 10301. DISPOSITION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) is amended—

(1) in the existing text—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''All rentals,'' and inserting the following:

''(c) DISPOSITION OF REVENUE UNDER OLD LEASES.—All rentals,''; and

(B) in subsection (c) (as designated by the amendment made by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph), by striking ''for the period from June 5, 1950, to date, and thereafter'' and inserting ''in the period beginning June 5, 1950, and ending on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014'';

(2) by adding after subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COASTAL STATE.—The term 'coastal State' includes a territory of the United States.

''(2) NEW LEASING REVENUES.—The term 'new leasing revenues'—

''(A) means amounts received by the United States as bonuses, rents, and royalties under leases for oil and gas, wind, tidal, or other energy exploration, development, and production on new areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are authorized to be made available for leasing as a result of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014 and leasing under that Act; and

''(B) does not include amounts received by the United States under any lease of an area located in the boundaries of the Central Gulf of Mexico and Western Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, including a lease issued before, on, or after such date of enactment.''; and

(3) by inserting before subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

''(a) PAYMENT OF NEW LEASING REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), of the amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States each fiscal year, 37.5 percent shall be allocated and paid in accordance with subsection (b) to coastal States that are affected States with respect to the leases under which those revenues are received by the United States.

''(2) PHASE-IN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), paragraph (1) shall be applied—

''(i) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the first leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting '12.5 percent' for '37.5 percent'; and

''(ii) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the second leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting '25 percent' for '37.5 percent'.

''(B) EXEMPTED LEASE SALES.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any lease issued under subtitle B of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

''(b) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States with respect to a leased tract that are required to be paid to coastal States in accordance with this subsection each fiscal year shall be allocated among and paid to coastal States that are within 200 miles of the leased tract, in amounts that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each such State that is closest to the geographic center of the lease tract, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM ALLOCATION.—The amount allocated to a coastal State under paragraph (1) each fiscal year with respect to a leased tract shall be—

''(A) in the case of a coastal State that is the nearest State to the geographic center of the leased tract, not less than 25 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract;

''(B) in the case of any other coastal State, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 15 percent, of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract; and

''(C) in the case of a coastal State that is the only coastal State within 200 miles of a leased tract, 100 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract.

''(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts allocated to a coastal State under this subsection—

''(A) shall be available to the coastal State without further appropriation;

''(B) shall remain available until expended;

''(C) shall be in addition to any other amounts available to the coastal State under this Act; and

''(D) shall be distributed in the fiscal year following receipt.

''(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a coastal State may use funds allocated and paid to it under this subsection for any purpose as determined by the laws of that State.

''(B) RESTRICTION ON USE FOR MATCHING.—Funds allocated and paid to a coastal State under this subsection may not be used as matching funds for any other Federal program.''.

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall not affect the application of section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109–432; (43 U.S.C. 1331 note)), as in effect before the enactment of this Act, with respect to revenues received by the United States under oil and gas leases issued for tracts located in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas, including such leases issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Reorganization of Minerals Management Agencies of the Department of the Interior

SEC. 10401. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF OCEAN ENERGY AND SAFETY.

There shall be in the Department of the Interior—

(1) an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Secretary of the Interior or, if directed by the Secretary, to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for—

(i) the safe and responsible development of our energy and mineral resources on Federal lands in appropriate accordance with United States energy demands; and

(ii) ensuring multiple-use missions of the Department of the Interior that promote the safe and sustained development of energy and minerals resources on public lands (as that term is defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

(2) an Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States; and

(3) an Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on public lands and other Federal onshore lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, including implementation of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and administration of the Office of Surface Mining.

SEC. 10402. BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the ''Bureau''), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the ''Director''); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Bureau all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of a comprehensive program of offshore mineral and renewable energy resources management.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall promulgate and implement regulations—

(A) for the proper issuance of leases for the exploration, development, and production of nonrenewable and renewable energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf;

(B) relating to resource identification, access, evaluation, and utilization;

(C) for development of leasing plans, lease sales, and issuance of leases for such resources; and

(D) regarding issuance of environmental impact statements related to leasing and post leasing activities including exploration, development, and production, and the use of third party contracting for necessary environmental analysis for the development of such resources.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Bureau any function, power, or duty that is—

(A) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service; or

(B) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall affect the authorities of the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or of the Forest Service under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–588).

SEC. 10403. OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY SERVICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Ocean Energy Safety Service (referred to in this section as the ''Service''), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Energy Safety (referred to in this section as the ''Director''); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Service all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of safety and environmental enforcement activities related to offshore mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations to ensure the safe and sound exploration, development, and production of mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a timely fashion.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall be responsible for all safety activities related to exploration and development of renewable and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, including—

(A) exploration, development, production, and ongoing inspections of infrastructure;

(B) the suspending or prohibiting, on a temporary basis, any operation or activity, including production under leases held on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(1));

(C) cancelling any lease, permit, or right-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(2));

(D) compelling compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations relating to worker safety and other matters;

(E) requiring comprehensive safety and environmental management programs for persons engaged in activities connected with the exploration, development, and production of mineral or renewable energy resources;

(F) developing and implementing regulations for Federal employees to carry out any inspection or investigation to ascertain compliance with applicable regulations, including health, safety, or environmental regulations;

(G) implementing the Offshore Technology Research and Risk Assessment Program under section 21 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1347);

(H) summoning witnesses and directing the production of evidence;

(I) levying fines and penalties and disqualifying operators;

(J) carrying out any safety, response, and removal preparedness functions; and

(K) the processing of permits, exploration plans, development plans.

(d) EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the inspection force of the Bureau consists of qualified, trained employees who meet qualification requirements and adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The qualification requirements referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be determined by the Secretary, subject to subparagraph (B); and

(B) shall include—

(i) 3 years of practical experience in oil and gas exploration, development, or production; or

(ii) a degree in an appropriate field of engineering from an accredited institution of higher learning.

(3) ASSIGNMENT.—In assigning oil and gas inspectors to the inspection and investigation of individual operations, the Secretary shall give due consideration to the extent possible to their previous experience in the particular type of oil and gas operation in which such inspections are to be made.

(4) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Director shall require that an individual to be hired as an inspection officer undergo an employment investigation (including a criminal history record check).

(5) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—Individuals hired as inspectors must be able to read, speak, and write English well enough to—

(A) carry out written and oral instructions regarding the proper performance of inspection duties; and

(B) write inspection reports and statements and log entries in the English language.

(6) VETERANS PREFERENCE.—The Director shall provide a preference for the hiring of an individual as a inspection officer if the individual is a member or former member of the Armed Forces and is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement, or retainer pay on account of service as a member of the Armed Forces.

(7) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—

(A) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—The Director shall provide that an annual evaluation of each individual assigned inspection duties is conducted and documented.

(B) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—An individual employed as an inspector may not continue to be employed in that capacity unless the evaluation demonstrates that the individual—

(i) continues to meet all qualifications and standards;

(ii) has a satisfactory record of performance and attention to duty based on the standards and requirements in the inspection program; and

(iii) demonstrates the current knowledge and skills necessary to courteously, vigilantly, and effectively perform inspection functions.

(8) LIMITATION ON RIGHT TO STRIKE.—Any individual that conducts permitting or inspections under this section may not participate in a strike, or assert the right to strike.

(9) PERSONNEL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director may employ, appoint, discipline and terminate for cause, and fix the compensation, terms, and conditions of employment of Federal service for individuals as the employees of the Service in order to restore and maintain the trust of the people of the United States in the accountability of the management of our Nation's energy safety program.

(10) TRAINING ACADEMY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a National Offshore Energy Safety Academy (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Academy'') as an agency of the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

(B) FUNCTIONS OF ACADEMY.—The Secretary, through the Academy, shall be responsible for—

(i) the initial and continued training of both newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors in all aspects of health, safety, environmental, and operational inspections;

(ii) the training of technical support personnel of the Bureau;

(iii) any other training programs for offshore oil and gas inspectors, Bureau personnel, Department personnel, or other persons as the Secretary shall designate; and

(iv) certification of the successful completion of training programs for newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors.

(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In performing functions under this paragraph, and subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into cooperative educational and training agreements with educational institutions, related Federal academies, other Federal agencies, State governments, safety training firms, and oil and gas operators and related industries.

(ii) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—Such training shall be conducted by the Academy in accordance with curriculum needs and assignment of instructional personnel established by the Secretary.

(11) USE OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.—In performing functions under this subsection, the Secretary shall use, to the extent practicable, the facilities and personnel of the Department of the Interior. The Secretary may appoint or assign to the Academy such officers and employees as the Secretary considers necessary for the performance of the duties and functions of the Academy.

(12) ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with appropriate educational institutions, operators, and representatives of oil and gas workers to develop and maintain adequate programs with educational institutions and oil and gas operators that are designed—

(i) to enable persons to qualify for positions in the administration of this title; and

(ii) to provide for the continuing education of inspectors or other appropriate Department of the Interior personnel.

(B) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial and technical assistance to educational institutions in carrying out this paragraph.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Service any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

SEC. 10404. OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Office of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the ''Office'') to be headed by a Director of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the ''Director'').

(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary and relating to the administration of offshore royalty and revenue management functions.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties previously assigned to the Minerals Management Service (including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations) regarding offshore royalty and revenue collection; royalty and revenue distribution; auditing and compliance; investigation and enforcement of royalty and revenue regulations; and asset management for onshore and offshore activities.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Office any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

SEC. 10405. ETHICS AND DRUG TESTING.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall certify annually that all Department of the Interior officers and employees having regular, direct contact with lessees, contractors, concessionaires, and other businesses interested before the Government as a function of their official duties, or conducting investigations, issuing permits, or responsible for oversight of energy programs, are in full compliance with all Federal employee ethics laws and regulations under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5

U.S.C. App.) and part 2635 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, and all guidance issued under subsection (c).

(b) DRUG TESTING.—The Secretary shall conduct a random drug testing program of all Department of the Interior personnel referred to in subsection (a).

(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue supplementary ethics and drug testing guidance for the employees for which certification is required under subsection (a). The Secretary shall update the supplementary ethics guidance not less than once every 3 years thereafter.

SEC. 10406. ABOLISHMENT OF MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE.

(a) ABOLISHMENT.—The Minerals Management Service is abolished.

(b) COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Completed administrative actions of the Minerals Management Service shall not be affected by the enactment of this Act, but shall continue in effect according to their terms until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION DEFINED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ''completed administrative action'' includes orders, determinations, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreements, rules, regulations, personnel actions, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, and privileges.

(c) PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the officers of the Department of the Interior under this title—

(1) pending proceedings in the Minerals Management Service, including notices of proposed rulemaking, and applications for licenses, permits, certificates, grants, and financial assistance, shall continue, notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or the vesting of functions of the Service in another agency, unless discontinued or modified under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such discontinuance or modification could have occurred if this title had not been enacted; and

(2) orders issued in such proceedings, and appeals therefrom, and payments made pursuant to such orders, shall issue in the same manner and on the same terms as if this title had not been enacted, and any such orders shall continue in effect until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(d) PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior or any officer of the Department of the Interior under this title, pending civil actions shall continue notwithstanding the enactment of this Act, and in such civil actions, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered and enforced in the same manner and with the same effect as if such enactment had not occurred.

(e) REFERENCES.—References relating to the Minerals Management Service in statutes, Executive orders, rules, regulations, directives, or delegations of authority that precede the effective date of this Act are deemed to refer, as appropriate, to the Department, to its officers, employees, or agents, or to its corresponding organizational units or functions. Statutory reporting requirements that applied in relation to the Minerals Management Service immediately before the effective date of this title shall continue to apply.

SEC. 10407. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE PAY RATES.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to ''Under Secretaries of the Treasury (3).'' the following:

''Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, Department of the Interior.''.

(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of the Interior (6).'' and inserting the following:

''Assistant Secretaries, Department of the Interior (7).''.

(c) DIRECTORS.—Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Director, Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior.'' and inserting the following new items:

''Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy, Department of the Interior.

''Director, Ocean Energy Safety Service, Department of the Interior.

''Director, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior.''.

SEC. 10408. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ENERGY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, an Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the ''Board'')—

(1) to provide the Secretary and the Directors established by this title with independent scientific and technical advice on safe, responsible, and timely mineral and renewable energy exploration, development, and production activities; and

(2) to review operations of the National Offshore Energy Health and Safety Academy established under section 10403(d), including submitting to the Secretary recommendations of curriculum to ensure training scientific and technical advancements.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) SIZE.—The Board shall consist of not more than 11 members, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the Secretary based on their expertise in oil and gas drilling, well design, operations, well containment and oil spill response; and

(B) must have significant scientific, engineering, management, and other credentials and a history of working in the field related to safe energy exploration, development, and production activities.

(2) CONSULTATION AND NOMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to identify potential candidates for the Board and shall take nominations from the public.

(3) TERM.—The Secretary shall appoint Board members to staggered terms of not more than 4 years, and shall not appoint a member for more than 2 consecutive terms.

(4) BALANCE.—In appointing members to the Board, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced representation of industry and research interests.

(c) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall appoint the Chair for the Board from among its members.

(d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet not less than 3 times per year and shall host, at least once per year, a public forum to review and assess the overall energy safety performance of Outer Continental Shelf mineral and renewable energy resource activities.

(e) OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—As part of its duties under this section, the Board shall, by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section and every 5 years thereafter, submit to the Secretary a report that—

(1) assesses offshore oil and gas well control technologies, practices, voluntary standards, and regulations in the United States and elsewhere; and

(2) as appropriate, recommends modifications to the regulations issued under this title to ensure adequate protection of safety and the environment, including recommendations on how to reduce regulations and administrative actions that are duplicative or unnecessary.

(f) REPORTS.—Reports of the Board shall be submitted by the Board to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and made available to the public in electronically accessible form.

(g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Board, other than full-time employees of the Federal Government, while attending meeting of the Board or while otherwise serving at the request of the Secretary or the Director while serving away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

SEC. 10409. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES.

Section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1348) is amended by adding at the end of the section the following:

''(g) INSPECTION FEES.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall collect from the operators of facilities subject to inspection under subsection (c) non-refundable fees for such inspections—

''(A) at an aggregate level equal to the amount necessary to offset the annual expenses of inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) by the Department of the Interior; and

''(B) using a schedule that reflects the differences in complexity among the classes of facilities to be inspected.

''(2) OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY FUND.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the 'Ocean Energy Enforcement Fund' (referred to in this subsection as the 'Fund'), into which shall be deposited all amounts collected as fees under paragraph (1) and which shall be available as provided under paragraph (3).

''(3) AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, all amounts deposited in the Fund—

''(i) shall be credited as offsetting collections;

''(ii) shall be available for expenditure for purposes of carrying out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) and the administration of the inspection program under this section;

''(iii) shall be available only to the extent provided for in advance in an appropriations Act; and

''(iv) shall remain available until expended.

''(B) USE FOR FIELD OFFICES.—Not less than 75 percent of amounts in the Fund may be appropriated for use only for the respective Department of the Interior field offices where the amounts were originally assessed as fees.

''(4) INITIAL FEES.—Fees shall be established under this subsection for the fiscal year in which this subsection takes effect and the subsequent 10 years, and shall not be raised without advise and consent of the Congress, except as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate as an adjustment equal to the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year preceding the adjustment exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year in which the claim was determined or last adjusted.

''(5) ANNUAL FEES.—Annual fees shall be collected under this subsection for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2013 shall be—

''(A) $10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

''(B) $17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

''(C) $31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

''(6) FEES FOR DRILLING RIGS.—Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed under this subsection

for all inspections completed in fiscal years 2015 through 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2015 shall be—

''(A) $30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 1,000 feet or more; and

''(B) $16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 1,000 feet.

''(7) BILLING.—The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) within 60 days after the date of the inspection, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.

''(8) SUNSET.—No fee may be collected under this subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2024.

''(9) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of the Fund during the fiscal year.

''(B) CONTENTS.—Each report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the following:

''(i) A statement of the amounts deposited into the Fund.

''(ii) A description of the expenditures made from the Fund for the fiscal year, including the purpose of the expenditures and the additional hiring of personnel.

''(iii) A statement of the balance remaining in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

''(iv) An accounting of pace of permit approvals.

''(v) If fee increases are proposed after the initial 10-year period referred to in paragraph (5), a proper accounting of the potential adverse economic impacts such fee increases will have on offshore economic activity and overall production, conducted by the Secretary.

''(vi) Recommendations to increase the efficacy and efficiency of offshore inspections.

''(vii) Any corrective actions levied upon offshore inspectors as a result of any form of misconduct.''.

SEC. 10410. PROHIBITION ON ACTION BASED ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13547.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service may not develop, propose, finalize, administer, or implement, any limitation on activities under their jurisdiction as a result of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547.

(b) REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate identifying all Federal expenditures in fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service and their predecessor agencies, by agency, account, and any pertinent subaccounts, for the development, administration, or implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547, including staff time, travel, and other related expenses.

Subtitle E—United States Territories

SEC. 10501. APPLICATION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (a), by inserting after ''control'' the following: ''or lying within the United States exclusive economic zone and the Continental Shelf adjacent to any territory of the United States'';

(2) in paragraph (p), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(3) in paragraph (q), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(r) The term 'State' includes each territory of the United States.''.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 10601. RULES REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES UNDER GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue rules to provide more clarity, certainty, and stability to the revenue streams contemplated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

(b) CONTENTS.—The rules shall include clarification of the timing and methods of disbursements of funds under section 105(b)(2) of such Act.

SEC. 10602. AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTED QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.

Section 105(f)(1) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109–432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note) shall be applied by substituting ''2024, and shall not exceed $999,999,999 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2055'' for ''2055''.

Subtitle G—Judicial Review

SEC. 10701. TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any cause of action that arises from a covered energy decision must be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the covered energy decision. Any cause of action not filed within this time period shall be barred.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a cause of action brought by a party to a covered energy lease.

SEC. 10702. DISTRICT COURT DEADLINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All proceedings that are subject to section 10701—

(1) shall be brought in the United States district court for the district in which the Federal property for which a covered energy lease is issued is located or the United States District Court of the District of Columbia;

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such cause or claim is filed; and

(3) shall take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court.

(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINE.—If an interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order has not been issued by the district court by the deadline described under this section, the cause or claim shall be dismissed with prejudice and all rights relating to such cause or claim shall be terminated.

SEC. 10703. ABILITY TO SEEK APPELLATE REVIEW.

An interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court in a proceeding that is subject to section 10701 may be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit shall resolve any such appeal as expeditiously as possible and, in any event, not more than 180 days after such interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court was issued.

SEC. 10704. LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF REVIEW AND RELIEF.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS.—In any judicial review of any Federal action under this subtitle, any administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action shall be presumed to be correct unless shown otherwise by clear and convincing evidence contained in the administrative record.

(b) LIMITATION ON PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.—In any judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle, the Court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the Court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a Federal law requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation concerned.

SEC. 10705. LEGAL FEES.

Any person filing a petition seeking judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle who is not a prevailing party shall pay to the prevailing parties (including intervening parties), other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in connection with the judicial review, unless the Court finds that the position of the person was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.

SEC. 10706. EXCLUSION.

This subtitle shall not apply with respect to disputes between the parties to a lease issued pursuant to an authorizing leasing statute regarding the obligations of such lease or the alleged breach thereof.

SEC. 10707. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED ENERGY DECISION.—The term ''covered energy decision'' means any action or decision by a Federal official regarding the issuance of a covered energy lease.

(2) COVERED ENERGY LEASE.—The term ''covered energy lease'' means any lease under this title or under an oil and gas leasing program under this title.

TITLE II—ONSHORE FEDERAL LANDS AND ENERGY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security

SEC. 21001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act''.

SEC. 21002. POLICIES REGARDING BUYING, BUILDING, AND WORKING FOR AMERICA.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—It is the intent of the Congress that—

(1) this subtitle will support a healthy and growing United States domestic energy sector that, in turn, helps to reinvigorate American manufacturing, transportation, and service sectors by employing the vast talents of United States workers to assist in the development of energy from domestic sources;

(2) to ensure a robust onshore energy production industry and ensure that the benefits of development support local communities, under this subtitle, the Secretary shall make every effort to promote the development of onshore American energy, and shall take into consideration the socioeconomic impacts, infrastructure requirements, and fiscal stability for local communities located within areas containing onshore energy resources; and

(3) the Congress will monitor the deployment of personnel and material onshore to encourage the development of American manufacturing to enable United States workers to benefit from this subtitle through good jobs and careers, as well as the establishment of important industrial facilities to support expanded access to American resources.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall when possible, and practicable, encourage the use of United States workers and equipment manufactured in the United States in all construction related to mineral resource development under this subtitle.

CHAPTER 1—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMIT STREAMLINING

SEC. 21101. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the ''Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2014''.

Subchapter A—Application for Permits to Drill Process Reform

SEC. 21111. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.—

''(A) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit to drill within 30 days after receiving an application for the permit. The Secretary may extend such period for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant. The notice shall be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, and shall include the names and titles of the persons processing the application, the specific reasons for the delay, and a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

''(B) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

''(i) in writing, clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

''(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

''(C) APPLICATION DEEMED APPROVED.—If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application is deemed approved, except in cases in which existing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

''(D) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

''(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

''(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(E) FEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall collect a single $6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under subparagraph (A). This fee shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

''(ii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall be transferred to the field office where they are collected and used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act subject to appropriation.''.

Subchapter B—Administrative Protest Documentation Reform

SEC. 21121. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PROTEST FEE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a $5,000 documentation fee to accompany each protest for a lease, right of way, or application for permit to drill.

''(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall remain in the field office where they are collected and used to process protests subject to appropriation.''.

Subchapter C—Permit Streamlining

SEC. 21131. MAKING PILOT OFFICES PERMANENT TO IMPROVE ENERGY PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project (referred to in this section as the ''Project'') in every Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for permitting energy projects on Federal land.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request that the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal lands to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(c) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (b), all Federal signatory parties shall, if appropriate, assign to each of the Bureau of Land Management field offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the employee's home agency; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal lands.

(d) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office identified in subsection (a) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) FUNDING.—Funding for the additional personnel shall come from the Department of the Interior reforms identified in sections 21111 and 21121.

(f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency whose employees are participating in the Project.

(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section the term ''energy projects'' includes oil, natural gas, and other energy projects as defined by the Secretary.

SEC. 21132. ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT LAW.

Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

Subchapter D—Judicial Review

SEC. 21141. DEFINITIONS.

In this subchapter—

(1) the term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal lands of the United States; and

(2) the term ''covered energy project'' means the leasing of Federal lands of the United States for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, or any other source of energy, and any action under such a lease, except that the term does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under such lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 21142. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the district court where the project or leases exist or are proposed.

SEC. 21143. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action must be filed no later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which it relates.

SEC. 21144. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as possible.

SEC. 21145. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

In any judicial review of a covered civil action, administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action or decision shall be presumed to be correct, and the presumption may be rebutted only by the preponderance of the evidence contained in the administrative record.

SEC. 21146. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

In a covered civil action, the court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct that violation. In addition, courts shall limit the duration of preliminary injunctions to halt covered energy projects to no more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction. In such cases of extensions, such extensions shall only be in 30-day increments and shall require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 21147. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES.

Sections 504 of title 5, United States Code, and 2412 of title 28, United States Code, (together commonly called the Equal Access to Justice Act) do not apply to a covered civil action, nor shall any party in such a covered civil action receive payment from the Federal Government for their attorneys' fees, expenses, and other court costs.

SEC. 21148. LEGAL STANDING.

Challengers filing appeals with the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as challengers before a United States district court.

Subchapter E—Knowing America's Oil and Gas Resources

SEC. 21151. FUNDING OIL AND GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide matching funding for joint projects with States to conduct oil and gas resource assessments on Federal lands with significant oil and gas potential.

(b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost of activities under this section shall not exceed 50 percent.

(c) RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.—Any resource assessment under this section shall be conducted by a State, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section a total of $50,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

CHAPTER 2—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 21201. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the ''Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2014''.

SEC. 21202. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

In conducting lease sales as required by section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)), each year the Secretary of the Interior shall perform the following:

(1) The Secretary shall offer for sale no less than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease. Acreage offered for lease pursuant to this paragraph shall not be subject to protest and shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that it shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary circumstances.

(2) In administering this section, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal lands that are available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

SEC. 21203. LEASING CERTAINTY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) is amended by inserting ''(1)'' before ''All lands'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) The Secretary shall not withdraw any covered energy project issued under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

''(B) The Secretary shall not infringe upon lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights of way for activities under such a lease.

''(C) No later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the current land use plan the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease under the criteria in section 2.

''(D) Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold no later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

''(E) The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

''(F) Not later than 60 days after a lease sale held under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease protests filed following a lease sale. If after 60 days any protest is left unsettled, said protest is automatically denied and appeal rights of the protestor begin.

''(G) No additional lease stipulations may be added after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee, unless the Secretary deems such stipulations as emergency actions to conserve the resources of the United States.''.

SEC. 21204. LEASING CONSISTENCY.

Federal land managers must follow existing resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until such time as a new record of decision is signed.

SEC. 21205. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 21206. STREAMLINED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Section 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)) is amended in the matter following paragraph (4) by striking ''at least thirty days in advance of the reinstatement'' and inserting ''in an annual report''.

CHAPTER 3—OIL SHALE

SEC. 21301. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the ''Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security Act'' or the ''PIONEERS Act''.

SEC. 21302. EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL SHALE REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND RECORD OF DECISION.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the final regulations regarding oil shale management published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 69,414) are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement those regulations, including the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations, without any other administrative action necessary.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECORD OF DECISION.—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the November 17, 2008 U.S. Bureau of Land Management Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations referred to in subsection (a) in those areas covered by the resource management plans amended by such amendments, and covered by such record of decision, without any other administrative action necessary.

SEC. 21303. OIL SHALE LEASING.

(a) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEASE SALES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall hold a lease sale within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act offering an additional 10 parcels for lease for research, development, and demonstration of oil shale resources, under the terms offered in the solicitation of bids for such leases published on January 15, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 10).

(b) COMMERCIAL LEASE SALES.—No later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold no less than 5 separate commercial lease sales in areas considered to have the most potential for oil shale development, as determined by the Secretary, in areas nominated through public comment. Each lease sale shall be for an area of not less than 25,000 acres, and in multiple lease blocs.

CHAPTER 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 21401. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

Subtitle B—Planning for American Energy

SEC. 22001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Planning for American Energy Act of 2014''.

SEC. 22002. ONSHORE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

''SEC. 44. QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as 'Secretary'), in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to lands administered by the Forest Service, shall develop and publish every 4 years a Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy. This Strategy shall direct Federal land energy development and department resource allocation in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States in accordance with Bureau of Land Management's mission of promoting the multiple use of Federal lands as set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

''(2) In developing this Strategy, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration on the projected energy demands of the United States for the next 30-year period, and how energy derived from Federal onshore lands can put the United States on a trajectory to meet that demand during the next 4-year period. The Secretary shall consider how Federal lands will contribute to ensuring national energy security, with a goal for increasing energy independence and production, during the next 4-year period.

''(3) The Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production objective for the development of energy resources from Federal onshore lands. Such objective shall be—

''(A) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the Federal onshore mineral estate, with a focus on lands held by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

''(B) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic coal production from Federal lands;

''(C) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of strategic and critical energy minerals from the Federal onshore mineral estate;

''(D) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in megawatts for electricity production from each of the following sources: wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal energy produced on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

''(E) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in unconventional energy production, such as oil shale;

''(F) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of oil, natural gas, coal, and other renewable sources from tribal lands for any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in facilitating energy production on its lands;

''(G) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in

production of helium on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and

''(H) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of geothermal, solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources from 'available lands' (as such term is defined in section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108 et seq.), and including any other lands deemed by the Territory or State of Hawaii, as the case may be, to be included within that definition) that the agency or department of the government of the State of Hawaii that is responsible for the administration of such lands selects to be used for such energy production.

''(4) The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration regarding the methodology used to arrive at its estimates for purposes of this section.

''(5) The Secretary has the authority to expand the energy development plan to include other energy production technology sources or advancements in energy on Federal lands.

''(6) The Secretary shall include in the Strategy a plan for addressing new demands for transmission lines and pipelines for distribution of oil and gas across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need.

''(b) TRIBAL OBJECTIVES.—It is the sense of Congress that federally recognized Indian tribes may elect to set their own production objectives as part of the Strategy under this section. The Secretary shall work in cooperation with any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in achieving its own strategic energy objectives designated under this subsection.

''(c) EXECUTION OF THE STRATEGY.—The relevant Secretary shall have all necessary authority to make determinations regarding which additional lands will be made available in order to meet the production objectives established by strategies under this section. The Secretary shall also take all necessary actions to achieve these production objectives unless the President determines that it is not in the national security and economic interests of the United States to increase Federal domestic energy production and to further decrease dependence upon foreign sources of energy. In administering this section, the relevant Secretary shall only consider leasing Federal lands available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

''(d) STATE, FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing each strategy, the Secretary shall solicit the input of affected States, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

''(e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of meeting the production goals set forth in the strategy. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and capacity installations and any problems with leasing, permitting, siting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal. In addition, the Secretary shall make suggestions to help meet any shortfalls in meeting the production goals.

''(f) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the Secretary shall complete a programmatic environmental impact statement. This programmatic environmental impact statement will be deemed sufficient to comply with all requirements under that Act for all necessary resource management and land use plans associated with the implementation of the strategy.

''(g) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—At least 60 days prior to publishing a proposed strategy under this section, the Secretary shall submit it to the President and the Congress, together with any comments received from States, federally recognized Indian tribes, and local governments. Such submission shall indicate why any specific recommendation of a State, federally recognized Indian tribe, or local government was not accepted.

''(h) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL ENERGY MINERALS DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'strategic and critical energy minerals' means those that are necessary for the Nation's energy infrastructure including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production and those that are necessary to support domestic manufacturing, including but not limited to, materials used in energy generation, production, and transportation.''.

(b) FIRST QUADRENNIAL STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress the first Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy under the amendment made by subsection (a).

Subtitle C—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Access

SEC. 23001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act''.

SEC. 23002. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 23003. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: LEASE SALES.

Section 107(a) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the reserve in accordance with this Act. Such program shall include at least one lease sale annually in those areas of the reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas each year in the period 2014 through 2024.''.

SEC. 23004. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary to—

(1) develop and bring into production any areas within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) transport oil and gas from and through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most direct manner possible to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timeline:

(1) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be approved within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved within 6 months after the submission to the Secretary of a request for a permit to drill.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the Reserve, within 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that all leasable tracts in the Reserve are within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 23005. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue—

(1) a new proposed integrated activity plan from among the non-adopted alternatives in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

(2) an environmental impact statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and maximum development of oil and natural gas resources of such reserve.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECISION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including the integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 23006. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

SEC. 23007. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.

At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity plan issued under section 23005(a)(1) shall—

(1) require the Department of the Interior to respond within 5 business days to a person who submits an application for a permit for development of oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of such application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each such application, that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions on permit applications; and

(B) provide that the period for issuing each permit after submission of such an application shall not exceed 60 days without the concurrence of the applicant.

SEC. 23008. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be completed within 24 months of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—The United States Geological Survey may, in carrying out the duties under this section, cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

Subtitle D—BLM Live Internet Auctions

SEC. 24001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''BLM Live Internet Auctions Act''.

SEC. 24002. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by inserting '', except as provided in subparagraph (C)'' after ''by oral bidding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) In order to diversify and expand the Nation's onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods. Each individual Internet-based lease sale shall conclude within 7 days.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment made by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the first 10 such lease sales and report to Congress the findings of the analysis. The report shall include—

(1) estimates on increases or decreases in such lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

(A) the number of bidders;

(B) the average amount of bid;

(C) the highest amount bid; and

(D) the lowest bid;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of such sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales which may provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation, ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers, minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion, and ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113–493. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam 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 9, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. ___. ADDITION OF LEASE SALES AFTER FINALIZATION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.

Section 18(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.1344(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''After'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (4), after''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) The Secretary may add to the areas included in an approved leasing program additional areas to be made available for leasing under the program, if all review and documents required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) have been completed with respect to leasing of each such additional area within the 5-year period preceding such addition.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

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

Under current law, the Secretary of the Interior is not able to add any additional lease sales to a finalized 5-year plan, even if that area has been included in a draft plan and then withdrawn, so even if the work has been done to look at areas to include, he can't consider that in the final plan.

This amendment is pretty simple. It provides the Secretary of the Interior the ability to add a lease sale to a finalized plan, as long as all of the NEPA requirements have been met on that specific area within the last 5 years.

This is especially applicable to the case of Virginia Lease Sale 220 which, as I stated, was studied and included in the environmental impact statement, though it was later postponed and canceled.

I want to make sure that the Secretary has the ability to add that back into the plan, since all the work has already been done to look at the environmental impacts; and, again, it was included originally in the plan. The flexibility should be there for that to happen.

Should this administration finalize the next 5-year plan early, that would mean the ensuing administration would not have any ability to add lease sales.

This amendment ensures that already studied lease sales can be added to a 5-year plan, as long as existing environmental requirements are met.

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

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

Now, we have the idea of a 5-year planning process, a 5-year plan, and then, you can just add things to it, so really, it is kind of not really a 5-year plan anymore. It is meaningless.

There is an urgent, urgent need for more leases offshore in sensitive areas, there really is—southern California, Virginia, Maine, areas that are incredibly productive in terms of their fisheries, that are heavily recreated, and have other uses.

There is an urgent need to plop down some oil wells there because we have only exported 1.7 million barrels of oil and gasoline yesterday—refined. There is a shortage, and that is why prices are high. If we just produced more in the most sensitive areas, without any environmental review, then the price would drop.

Well, no, actually, production has doubled since the Republicans first passed this bill, its fifth year in a row—it is Groundhog Day in June.

Now, they are still pretending. Actually, we heard a new argument yesterday: prices would be higher if we weren't exporting all of that diesel and gasoline, and the American Petroleum Institute hopes we will start soon acting like a colony and export crude oil to our friends in China and elsewhere, so they can make manufactured goods and sell them to us. Now, this is a great plan, and we are going to make it even better by not planning anymore.

There are 36.1 million acres of land under lease onshore. We had an argument about that yesterday—that is half the bill—and 23.5 million are not in production, but we need to lease more. Offshore, 220 million acres are available under the current leasing plan, 33.2 million acres have been leased, and 28.1 million of those 33.2—that is a pretty high percentage—aren't producing, and that is about 85 percent.

We need to lease more. We need to lease it now, so the oil companies can sit on it until they drive the price to $200 or $300 a barrel, which they will because we pay the royal price—we produce oil more cheaply here, but we pay the royal price.

We are exporting gasoline and diesel and paying extortionate prices, and the oil companies are making obscene prices, and only if we didn't have a planning process and we leased in some more sensitive areas, price wouldn't go down.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for offering this amendment.

In many ways, Madam Chairman, this is indicative of the bureaucratic hoops that people have to jump through. Now, keep in mind, this lease sale in Virginia went through all of the environmental hoops and then was taken off the roles, if you will.

Under current law, you have to jump through the same environmental hoops again, notwithstanding the fact that all of the work has been done. I say this is indicative of what goes on with the bureaucracy in a great many ways throughout our country, but this is especially, I think, troubling to the people of Virginia because not only has their Governor and their legislature spoken very loudly that they would like to have an opportunity to drill offshore, to deny them that opportunity because of what I would call a bureaucratic morass of having to jump

through hoops doesn't make any sense at all.

I think the gentleman's amendment makes immensely good sense, and I think it is something we should look at in a broader scale in a lot of other areas.

I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, I believe I have the right to close, so I would reserve until the other side has concluded.

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

As the chairman expressed, he is exactly correct. Virginia is interested in being able to develop Lease Sale 220, and it is a bipartisan interest. It is both of our Senators from Virginia, it is our Governor from Virginia, it is our general assembly from Virginia.

There is broad bipartisan support in moving forward with offshore energy production. Virginia has the potential to be a leader in oil and gas development on the east coast.

I, along with many in Virginia, was disappointed when the Department of Interior announced that Virginia would not be included in the 2012–2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. It was in the plan originally.

When the final plan came out, Lease Sale 220 was taken out and for no good apparent reason. We want the ability to be able to add it back because all the work has been done to have it there. We want to make sure the flexibility is there for the administration to do that.

The Department's exclusion of Virginia from consideration essentially prevents the creation of thousands of great-paying jobs and around $19.5 billion in Federal, State, and local revenue.

This amendment is a step forward for responsible offshore energy development and assures that decisions can be made in a timely way, especially when all of the environmental evaluation has already been done. We are not asking for any of that to be skipped.

We are asking for the ability to add this into a plan outside of the 5-year window. If this was removed from the plan for a reason, it ought to have the same opportunity to be included into the plan for a reason. That is what we are asking here, is for that to happen in a reasonable, thoughtful, and concerted way.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, we had extensive debate yesterday, and it is really not worth revisiting today. We had the same debate last year. This bill passed and has languished in the Senate and will not go anywhere in the Senate. We had the same the year before, the year before, and the year before.

You can pretend that you care about high oil prices at the same time while protecting the unbelievably obscene profits of the oil industry. You can pretend that the fact that they are sitting on 28.1 million acres of leases offshore that they have yet to develop doesn't exist and they need to lease more acreage.

They basically sit on these leases for years and watch the value of their asset, which is the oil underneath, rise. They have no incentive, actually, to drill in many of these areas because they pay a de minimus—a few bucks an acre kind of lease on an annual basis—and, hey, what a great activity.

Meanwhile, the speculators on Wall Street, according to the head of ExxonMobil—who is a pretty good authority—have jacked up the price because of speculation about 60 cents a gallon at the pump.

So every American should know every time they go to the pump, they can thank speculators on Wall Street, and inaction on the Republican side of the aisle either attempts to delay any minimal regulation or reforms of wild speculation of flash trading in the commodities market.

Instead, they are going to pretend, if we let more leases that the oil companies can sit on, that somehow the price will begin magically to come down, even though all the development in the last few years and the doubling of exports of oil of gasoline and diesel has not brought down the price. It is a so-called world market.

We produce it more cheaply here, but we pay the same price as the most expensively produced North Sea oil, so it is all kind of meaningless.

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

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

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, 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. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, 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 49, beginning at line 7, strike section 10410.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, my district provides a perfect example of the need for ocean coordination and information sharing between local, State, and Federal governments, including our offshore energy management agencies, the military, our ports, our ocean carriers, our energy developers, recreational users, and other stakeholders.

Let me explain. The Port of Long Beach is the second busiest port in the United States, moving $140 billion in goods, supporting 1.4 million jobs in the United States.

Offshore oil platforms extract crude oil in San Pedro Bay, less than a mile from my front door. San Clemente Island, in my district, has a Navy training ground and a ship-to-shore firing range. Nearby waters are home to seabirds, fisheries, and migrating whales.

Sea-level rise and extreme weather threaten neighborhoods and businesses all along my district and the entire coast of California.

□ 0930

These are all major, interwoven uses of our oceans, and it doesn't make sense to address them on a case-by-case basis without all the stakeholders participating. We need smart ocean planning and coordination.

For those reasons, my amendment would strike the misguided and counterproductive language in H.R. 4899 that prohibits costal and marine spatial planning coordination. We need our Federal offshore energy management agencies to include the consideration of other stakeholders, not exclude them from the offshore leasing and the drilling process.

We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our ports and our shipbuilders, not restrict coordination. We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our fishermen and our fishery councils, not to restrict coordination. We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our States and local governments, not to restrict coordination.

The country, and my district, needs a comprehensive approach to our ocean resources, which is what the National Ocean Policy provides.

At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), a lifelong advocate for our oceans.

Mr. FARR. Thank you for yielding.

Madam Chair, this bill has in its title ''America That Works.'' It is not going to work with this provision in it, and that is why the bill fails. I think year after year of failing and failing is a policy of upward failure.

It makes no sense not to allow all the Federal agencies to coordinate. We do that in the military. This would be like restricting the ability of the military to coordinate between services.

So we do it with shipping lanes, we do it with wildlife, we do it with habitat protection. It is just smart.

The spatial planning in the National Ocean Policy, for the first time, saves a lot of money because all these Federal agencies now sit down and talk

about how they can carry out the policies that they are responsible for. You wipe all that. No dialogue, no communication, no ability to reach agreements in a way by this crazy restrictive language.

Without this amendment, this bill proves that America can't work.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, section 10410 of the bill prohibits offshore energy agencies from engaging in coastal and marine spatial planning, or ocean zoning, under the National Ocean Policy established by President Obama's Executive Order 13547.

The House is on record six times in opposition to language such as that proposed by the gentleman, each time with bipartisan support against this type of language and also in support of efforts to oppose the Obama administration's attempt to zone the oceans under this unconstitutional executive order.

Just as a little background: Executive Order 13547 was signed in 2010, and it requires that numerous Federal bureaucracies essentially zone the ocean and the sources thereof. This actually means that a drop of rain that falls on your house could be subject to this overreaching policy because that drop of rain will ultimately wind up in the ocean.

As someone who worked on the ocean for 17 years, I know something about this particular issue.

There are concerns that have been raised that the National Ocean Policy may not only restrict ocean and inland activities, but it may also be flawed because it has not been given any specific appropriations by this Congress, nor does it have any statutory authority from any Congress for this initiative.

This administration was also directed by the fiscal 2014 omnibus appropriations bill to submit a spending report to the Appropriations Committee by March of 2014, and yet they have failed to do so.

So, on this ocean zoning activity, the administration has not been transparent with respect to this executive order.

Let me say this. You have heard from the other side—and you are going to continue to hear from the other side—that planning is good. Yes, planning may be good. Planning with the intent to regulate or backdoor regulation or backdoor rulemaking is not, because here is what the executive order says on its face. It says:

> All executive departments, agencies, and offices that are members of the council and any other executive department, agency, or office whose action affects the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes shall, to the fullest extent consistent with the applicable law . . . comply with council certified coastal and marine spatial plans.

That sounds like regulation and rulemaking to me. That means all these folks are going to have something to say on how we move forward, and that is why section 10410 is so important to the bill we are talking about today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I would like to point out that the opposition said that six times the House is on record for striking out the National Ocean Policy.

I would like to remind him that all six times that has been put back in by the U.S. Senate.

I want to point out that ocean coordination—as he points out, the planning is good, but not now—has been supported by a broad array of stakeholders, including commercial fishing, engineering and consulting, recreation tourism, the renewable energy industries, as well as academics, tribes, faith-based groups, and NGOs.

In fact, 117 of those organizations across 20 States wrote a letter to Congress saying:

> We urge you to reject any provisions that would undermine continued progress on coordinated ocean planning or seek to undermine the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Madam Chair, I will insert that letter in the RECORD, as well as a letter from the North Atlantic Ports Association that represents ports and port-related interests from Virginia to Canada.

The Ports Association says:

> We strongly oppose these amendments to any legislation, which undermine our ability to engage in planning for future ocean uses, impede the integration of the marine highway system, and create uncertainty for our businesses.

MAY 16, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Office of the Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. NITA M. LOWEY,
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: We are writing to express our strong support for coordinated ocean planning. In recent years, provisions attempting to undermine and defund ocean planning and coordination work among states, tribes, and federal agencies have been repeatedly inserted in a variety of legislation, particularly appropriation bills. The sole purpose of these provisions is to halt vital cross-jurisdictional coordination and ocean planning that benefits coastal communities, ocean-based businesses, and helps to protect, maintain and restore the health of our ocean's wildlife and ecosystems. We strongly object to these provisions and urge you to oppose inclusion of any such language in legislation moving through the House of Representatives.

Cross-jurisdictional coordination and smart ocean planning allow coastal communities to take a pragmatic approach to changing ocean economies and environments. This approach puts ocean management decisions closer to the people, industries, and jobs that will be impacted by ocean management decisions, allowing communities to help guide their own future and make smart choices that will provide balanced use, good governance, and long-term sustainability. In contrast to misleading rhetoric from those who oppose the National Ocean Policy and the improved coordination and leveraging of limited resources it supports, efforts to better coordinate and plan for ocean uses have emerged from the ground up, with their roots in state-sponsored regional partnerships.

Comprehensive, science-based coordination efforts are already underway in several regions—engaging stakeholders who use the ocean, developing region-specific data, building resiliency from large storms and creating a regional ocean plan to address current and future ocean uses. These partnerships allow local, state, tribal, and federal institutions to work together toward solutions for ocean and coastal health and improved economies. In addition to these regional efforts, several individual states are also currently using smart-ocean planning as a management tool for their state waters, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Washington, and Oregon.

Attempts to prohibit key coastal and ocean management agencies from coordinating with coastal states, other federal agencies and the public, or to undermine the National Ocean Policy are severely misguided. Dismantling coordination efforts results in overspending at the state and federal level, duplicative and potentially conflicting processes among agencies, and creates uncertainty among ocean-based businesses and industries. Coordination at a regional scale through Regional Ocean Partnerships and Regional Planning Bodies provides a seat at the table for all ocean users to address current and emerging ocean uses and conflicts. Provisions attempting to impose arbitrary restrictions on coordinated planning undermine these ongoing state and regional efforts and threaten the progress already being made to enhance ocean and coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems. Accordingly, we oppose any effort to obstruct funding for regional coordination and planning, or to undermine participation by any relevant agency in regional coordination and planning efforts.

Congress should be enhancing our ocean and coastal economies by supporting coordinated ocean planning, not creating arbitrary barriers for this ongoing work at the local, state, and regional level. We urge you to reject any provisions that would undermine continued progress on coordinated ocean planning or seek to undermine the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL

American Littoral Society; Blue Frontier; Friends of the National Ocean Policy; Greenpeace; GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.; Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature; International Federation of Fly Fishers; League of Conservation Voters; Mangrove Action Project (MAP); National Audubon Society; National Marine Mammal Foundation; Natural Resources Defense Council; Nature Abounds; Ocean Champions; Ocean Conservancy; Ocean Conservation Research; Oceana; Save Our Shores; Shark Stewards; Surfrider Foundation; The Wilderness Society; WATERWATCH International; Wild Heritage Planners.

REGIONAL

Anacostia Watershed Society; Center for Chesapeake Communities; Conservation Law Foundation; Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System; Gulf Restoration Network; Markian Melnyk, President, Atlantic

Grid Development LLC; New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance; Northwest Watershed Institute; Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association.

CALIFORNIA

Endangered Habitats League; Environmental Defense Center; Monterey Coastkeeper; Ocean Defenders Alliance; The Otter Project; Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Waitt Institute; Dawn Wright, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands, CA; Jacob A. James, Managing Director, Waitt Foundation; Jennifer Harrower, Ph.D., Student, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz; Marc Shargel, Sea Life Photographer and Author, Living Sea Images, Santa Cruz County, California; Marilyn O'Neill, Founder & CEO, Nautilus Environmental; Zdravka Tzankova, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz.

COLORADO

Colorado Ocean Coalition.

CONNECTICUT

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut; Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

DELAWARE

Delaware Nature Society; Dr. Alina M. Szmant, Professor of Marine Biology, Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

FLORIDA

Florida Wildlife Federation; Indian Riverkeeper; Fly & Light Tackle Angler, Stuart, FL; Just-In-Time Charters; Palm Beach County Reef Rescue; Drew Martin, Conservation Chair, Loxhatchee Group; Sierra Club; Dr. Ed Schwerin, Professor of Public Policy, Florida Atlantic University; Kristen Hoss, President, Tanawha Presents LLC; Dr. Rozalind Jester, Professor of Marine Science, Edison State College, Fort Myers, FL.

LOUISIANA

Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe.

MAINE

F/V Sea Keeper; Great Harbor Maritime Museum; Island Institute; Maine Wind Industry Initiative; Sea Keeper Fishery Consulting LLC; Richard C. Nelson, Captain F/V Pescadero, Maine Regional Ocean Planning Advisory Group, Friendship, Maine; Ryan Beaumont, P.E., Principal Engineer, R.M. Beaumont Corp., Brunswick, Maine.

MARYLAND

1000 Friends of Maryland; Maryland Academy of Sciences; Maryland Coastal Bays Program; National Aquarium; Daniel Trott, Owner, Maritime Sector Solutions, LLC, Fort Washington, MD; Drew J. Koslow, Choptank Riverkeeper, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy; John H. Dunnigan, Sailor and Grandpa.

MASSACHUSETTS

Alewives Anonymous; Peter Phippen, Coastal Coordinator, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, Eight Towns and the Great Marsh Committee; Richard F. Delaney, President & C.E.O., Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA; Robert Stoddard, Executive Vice President, GWAVE LLC, Boston, MA; Tedd Saunders, CSO, The Saunders Hotel Group, Boston, MA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation; Seacoast Science Center; Noah J. Elwood, PE, Appledore Marine Engineering.

NEW JERSEY

Environment New Jersey; SandyHook SeaLife Foundation; Margo Pellegrino, Founder, Miami2Maine; Michael L. Pisauro, Jr. Legislative Affairs Director, New Jersey Environmental Lobby.

NEW YORK

Blue Ocean Institute; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Empire State Consumer Project; Friends of the Bay; Group for the East End; Operation SPLASH; Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph.D., President, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island; Harald Duell, Senior Vice President, Ardour Capital Investments, LLC, The Empire State Building, New York, NY; Jackie Quillen, The Garden Club of East Hampton.

OREGON

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition; Oregon Wave Energy Trust; Port Orford Ocean Resource Team; Chares Steinback, Director, Point 97; Ruby Gate, CEO, Point 97.

PENNSYLVANIA

Captain Joel S. Fogel, The Explorers Club, First World Ambassador.

RHODE ISLAND

The Ocean Project; Bill McElroy, Captain/Owner, FV Ellen June; Jeff Grybowski, CEO, Deepwater Wind; Michael C. Tuttle, Manager Marine Services Division, HRA Gray & Pape, LLC, Providence, RI.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League; Waccamaw Riverkeeper; Paul M. Rosenblum Ph.D., Faculty Advisor to the Honor Committee, Professor of Biology, The Citadel.

TEXAS

Texas Coastal Partners; Ann E. Jochens, Research Scientist, Retired, Texas A&M University, College Station.

VIRGINIA

TerraScapes Environmental; Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center; Eileen Levandoski, Assistant Director, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club; W. Mark Swingle, Director of Research & Conservation, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Virginia Beach, VA.

WASHINGTON

FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor); Taylor Shellfish Farms; Wild Fish Conservancy; Kathleen Sayce, Shoalwater Botanical, Nahcotta, WA; Norman T. Baker, Ph.D., Executive Committee, North Olympic Group of the Sierra Club.

WEST VIRGINIA

Christians for the Mountains.

NORTH ATLANTIC PORTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED,
Portland, ME, June 14, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Office of the Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. NITA M. LOWEY,
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: The North Atlantic Ports Association Inc., founded in 1949, is one of the oldest and most active trade associations of commercial seaports. Our goal is to promote ocean commerce in a responsible manner in order to strengthen the national economy and help our communities to prosper.

Our members are connected to seaports and ocean commerce in some way: terminal operators, stevedores, port authorities, governmental agencies, non-profits, consultants, academics, maritime lawyers, ships' agents and are all located between Virginia and the Canadian Maritimes. Our member ports, in the United States, are Portland, Portsmouth, Gloucester, Boston, New Bedford, Providence, Davisville, New London, New Haven, Bridgeport, New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, and Norfolk. We are interested in expanding trade among nations and in helping our local communities to prosper through growth in ocean commerce. As the economy becomes ever more global, our role in the world-wide supply chain has increased in importance. Ocean activity across the nation is growing. We have witnessed the competition for space amongst the numerous ocean-based business sectors either currently operating or planning to operate in our ocean and ports. Coordinated planning is critical to ensure the current and future needs of our businesses are considered and accommodated as the ocean and ports become more crowded.

We, the members of the North Atlantic Ports Association, resolved during our last semi-annual meeting to ask our leaders in Washington ''to utilize existing federal programs in support of the rapid development of the Marine Highway System to ease roadway corridor congestion, reduce infrastructure costs, provide for improved safety and security, and to have a positive environmental impact to the benefit of the general public.'' Further, the resolution calls for the development of a National Ports Strategy to better integrate the marine highway system into our national surface transportation strategy, network and policies. We believe that the resources necessary to achieve these objectives exist within the budget of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Regional Ocean Partnerships like the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, provide a unique forum for the states and federal agencies to work across jurisdictional boundaries on ocean and coastal challenges. This venue offers our businesses a clear way to have a seat at the decision-making table, rather than on an ad hoc basis trying to track and respond to the huge array of new ocean activities that affect our businesses. This type of planning approach ensures that we are able to inform future decisions by providing input on the needs of our industry.

It is important to us that Regional Ocean Partnerships have the funding necessary to continue this regional ocean coordination and planning work, and that federal legislation does not interfere with the process. We believe that the resources necessary to achieve these objectives exist within the budget of the various agencies. Unfortunately, a number of amendments have been repeatedly inserted into the recent legislation, in an attempt to prohibit key coastal and ocean management agencies from coordinating with coastal states, other federal agencies, and the public.

We strongly oppose these amendments to any legislation, which undermine our ability to engage in planning for future ocean uses, impede the integration of the marine highway system and create uncertainty for our businesses.

We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

CAPT. F. BRADLEY WELLOCK,
President.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' to

States and tribes having a seat at the table for Federal oceans decisions and vote ''yes'' on the Lowenthal amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I just want to make this point, which the gentleman from Texas pointed out.

What we are saying, essentially, in the underlying bill is that we are not going to fund an executive order. Now let's think about that. It is an executive order that has no statutory authority.

In many ways, this is one of the examples of this administration, I think, far overstepping its ability to faithfully execute the laws of the land. This may be one of those examples that the Speaker was alluding to yesterday when he suggested there may be a lawsuit coming from the U.S. House. Because there is no statutory authority for the National Ocean Policy.

What I find so interesting is that my friends on the other side of the aisle argue about how important the National Ocean Policy is, but when they controlled the House, the Senate, and the Presidency the first two years of this President's term, they did nothing with the National Ocean Policy. Why? Because there is a lot to be looked at in that.

So I think that opposition to this is something that we have done over and over and over again, and I congratulate the gentleman from Texas for taking the lead on ocean policy.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I have to concur wholeheartedly with the chairman's remarks when he said that the President's executive order has never been statutorily authorized by Congress. Four Congresses attempted to do so, under Democratic control, and four times this has not happened. Four times, Congress has looked at this issue and has said ''no'' to the President's activity.

Also, Congress has never specifically authorized one penny for this activity. It doesn't make any difference how many people want this. It is whether or not Congress authorizes this activity. Congress specifically did not authorize this activity. The executive order is unconstitutional, and it should not be supported by approving the gentleman's amendment.

First of all, let me say this. I would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS for his support and the Natural Resources Committee's oversight efforts to protect both our ocean and our inland economies by stopping this Federal overreach.

Again, I urge a ''no'' vote on the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Chair, I support this amendment offered by my colleague from California, which would strike the anti-National Ocean Policy language contained in H.R. 4899.

The National Ocean Policy seeks to improve the coordinated management of our oceans and coasts, and to address the most pressing issues facing our oceans, resources, and coastal communities. In fact, right now, there are over a hundred different ocean users meeting in Massachusetts to help develop New England's ocean plan. Lobstermen from Maine, science educators from New Hampshire, fishermen from Massachusetts, clean energy company representatives from Rhode Island, and recreational fishermen from Connecticut are meeting with federal and state agencies to talk about how to improve their options for their local businesses, build resiliency for coastal communities in the face of extreme weather events, and maintain the health of the ocean that provides us with the goods and services we need and enjoy.

The work and research conducted under the National Ocean Policy supports tens of millions of jobs, which in turn generate billions of dollars for our coastal communities. The National Ocean Policy improves government efficiency and decision outcomes by bringing a variety of government agencies together at a single table. The planning and coordination done according to this policy involves stakeholders in the policy-making process, helping to produce relevant policies supported across sectors. This policy also balances the needs of a variety of interests, ensuring that the fishing industry and working waterfronts are preserved while new energy businesses and other economic sectors are developed.

The National Ocean Policy helps to ensure that our resources, our culture, our history, and the economic vitality of our communities are fully considered in decisions concerning our oceans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the wise stewardship of the oceans and our ocean economy by supporting the Lowenthal amendment.

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

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam 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 51, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF PLANNING AREA DEFINED.

For the purposes of this Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), and any regulations or 5-year plan issued under that Act, the term ''South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area'' means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)) that is located between the northern lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Virginia and the southernmost lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Georgia.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, several coastal States, including my home State of South Carolina, as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia, have long advocated for responsible offshore energy development for our shores. This resource development starts with seismic surveying and goes all the way to production.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has blocked this exploration and development every step of the way, from tying up the seismic permitting process in bureaucratic delays to excluding several Atlantic States from the current 5-year plan.

As we move forward to plan for a more secure energy future, opening access to new areas of our Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS, is a no-brainer. We must do it to stay competitive and to generate American energy and American jobs.

When BOEM conducts their 5-year planning process, they use administrative boundaries to divide up areas for leasing. This amendment simply tells them to consider Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia as one area.

Our amendment is simple: it unifies four pro-offshore drilling States as one administrative area for offshore leasing planning purposes. It also ensures that the South Atlantic meets the underlying threshold in H.R. 4899—and I want to commend Chairman DOC HASTINGS for his leadership on this—so that sales in this area will be included in future 5-year plans under this legislation.

Our amendment does not have any effect on revenue-sharing and it does not hold back other Atlantic areas from seeking to develop energy off their shores.

I will give a shout-out to Senator TIM SCOTT, who has also taken the initiative on the Senate side for this very issue.

Madam Chairman, I came to Washington as a Congressman to focus on jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers. H.R. 4899 focuses on job creation. Energy production is a segue to job creation in this country.

If you look at North Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, these are energy-producing States that have very, very low unemployment. North Dakota has a 3 percent unemployment rate—or

less. In fact, you can get a finder's fee if you get somebody to work at a McDonald's in North Dakota.

We can have economic development in this country if we allow energy production onshore and offshore. My State of South Carolina wants to see those energy jobs along our coast.

These are not just the oily guys in the hard hats out on the rigs turning the drill. These are folks onshore supporting the offshore industry. These are the widgetmakers, the pipefitters, the welders, auto body mechanics, and the waitresses at the restaurants that receive the tips from all these workers, the churches that receive the tithes, the chambers of commerce and United Ways that receive our contributions.

Energy jobs have a tremendous trickle-down effect on the economy. The first domino is to actually open up these areas, and I think that is what South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia want to see.

They want to see our areas offshore at least included in the next 5 years plan, so guess what? Maybe we can go out there and drive some seismic. Maybe we can get beyond this 30-year old technology that we are using to see if there are any resources off our coast. Maybe we can actually use 21st century technology like 3–D and 4–D technology that will actually see down into the Earth and see what recoverable resources may or may not be there.

□ 0945

Let's allow these areas in the next 5-year plan to help create jobs in our States—jobs, energy, our Founding Fathers, and a return to more states' rights issues.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. I think it is a very good amendment. That part of the South Atlantic needs to be treated, I think, as one entity just because of the nature of how the State lines are. I think the gentleman's amendment makes immensely good sense. I support it, and I thank the gentleman for offering it.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership on this.

Madam Chairman, the folks in Florida were concerned, but guess what? This area stops at the Florida-Georgia line. They can deal with their own waters. These are the waters of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia that we are talking about.

I spoke yesterday and had a graph of disease fuel prices in this country—I drive a diesel truck—and of the disparity between off-road and on-road diesel fuel. Let me tell you this: if we, through our policies, could lower the price of diesel fuel by $1 from that $3.69 a gallon for America's truckers down to $2.69—there is a 300-gallon tank on every 18-wheeler. If we could lower the price by $1, we would save every trucker $300 per fill-up. Think about how that trickles down to the price of the commodities when you shop all across America.

I support this amendment, and I ask everyone to support this simple, administrative change.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, 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 51, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.

Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.—

''(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, shall facilitate and support the practical study of geology and geophysics to better understand the oil, gas, and other hydrocarbon potential in the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area by entering into partnerships to conduct geological and geophysical activities on the outer Continental Shelf.

''(2)(A) No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, the Governors of the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia may each nominate for participation in the partnerships—

''(i) one institution of higher education located within the Governor's State; and

''(ii) one institution of higher education within the Governor's State that is a historically black college or university, as defined in section 631(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a)).

''(B) In making nominations, the Governors shall give preference to those institutions of higher education that demonstrate a vigorous rate of admission of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

''(3) The Secretary shall only select as a partner a nominee that the Secretary determines demonstrates excellence in geophysical sciences curriculum, engineering curriculum, or information technology or other technical studies relating to seismic research (including data processing).

''(4) Notwithstanding subsection (d), nominees selected as partners by the Secretary may conduct geological and geophysical activities under this section after filing a notice with the Secretary 30-days prior to commencement of the activity without any further authorization by the Secretary except those activities that use solid or liquid explosives shall require a permit. The Secretary may not charge any fee for the provision of data or other information collected under this authority, other than the cost of duplicating any data or information provided. Nominees selected as partners under this section shall provide to the Secretary any data or other information collected under this subsection within 60 days after completion of an initial analysis of the data or other information collected, if so requested by the Secretary.

''(5) Data or other information produced as a result of activities conducted by nominees selected as partners under this subsection shall not be used or shared for commercial purposes by the nominee, may not be produced for proprietary use or sale, and shall be made available by the Secretary to the public.

''(6) The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate reports on the data or other information produced under the partnerships under this section. Such reports shall be made no less frequently than every 180 days following the conduct of the first geological and geophysical activities under this section.

''(7) In this subsection the term 'geological and geophysical activities' means any oil- or gas-related investigation conducted on the outer Continental Shelf, including geophysical surveys where magnetic, gravity, seismic, or other systems are used to detect or imply the presence of oil or gas.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, today, in order to maintain our Nation's competitive edge, to generate millions in much-needed revenue and to create millions of new jobs, we simply must move forward with offshore energy development. It just makes sense. There are new areas in our Nation today in which we are not developing that energy, specifically the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf—the mid-Atlantic area.

Just as Mr. DUNCAN mentioned, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are doing the science to determine the extent of those resources. I believe it is a national obligation to develop the resources that we have. Allowing seismic surveying in the Atlantic is an important step toward achieving this goal.

My amendment builds on that effort by promoting offshore seismic surveying through institutions of higher education, especially those that have done so much for our veterans. Specifically, this amendment would allow the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to partner with colleges and universities in the South Atlantic region, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to promote geological and geophysical educational opportunities. The amendment language specifically gives preference to higher education institutions that admit and educate our Nation's returning veterans.

This is a win-win, folks. It helps develop our Nation's energy resources, and it helps our veterans. The time is now.

These partner schools would be able to conduct offshore geological and geophysical surveys for research purposes. Any data collected would be shared with the government, and it is prohibited from being used for commercial purposes. This language is modeled after existing regulations for seismic surveying that are already in place at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

This amendment promotes STEM educational opportunities and prepares students in the South Atlantic States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia for the cutting-edge, high-paying jobs of America's energy renaissance. Just as Mr. DUNCAN spoke about, the time is now for that opportunity.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for the time and for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Chairman, I am wearing a Clemson Tiger Paw and an orange tie today in support of Clemson University, but I will tell you that the University of South Carolina has a leading program on geology and seismic testing. Dr. James Knapp testified before this committee about what they can do in looking at 3–D and 4–D 21st century technology to find the resources, to pinpoint those resources, and to maximize the production of those resources. That is what we want—to partner with the universities as Mr. WITTMAN mentioned—in order to help shape the minds and opportunities and the potential of future leaders within the energy realm.

So I commend him. I support this amendment, and I hope my colleagues will.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

I think, once again, the combination of what you and the gentleman from South Carolina said about the new technologies that will help us in the long run to develop our own energy resources makes immensely good sense, and I think this amendment adds to that process. I commend the gentleman, and I support the amendment.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, in closing, this is about American jobs; it is about developing our energy; it is about educational opportunities; it is about promoting STEM within our colleges and universities; it is about providing opportunities in Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the United States; and it is about providing opportunities for our veterans.

This is a win-win for our Nation. It is an amendment that should be adopted and that should be voted on in favor by every Member of this body.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In title I, at the end of subtitle F (page 51, after line 21) add the following:

SEC. ___. NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF ANY APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF ANY OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS WELL STIMULATION ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary of the Interior shall notify all relevant State and local regulatory agencies and publish a notice in the Federal Register, within 30 days after receiving any application for a permit that would allow the conduct of any offshore oil and gas well stimulation activities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Capps-Brownley-Huffman-Lowenthal amendment. This commonsense amendment simply ensures that the American public and State regulators are kept informed of offshore fracking activities in Federal waters.

Last year, a FOIA request revealed that at least 15 fracks have taken place in Federal waters off the coast of California during the last two decades, with several being approved as recently as last year. While we know little about the impacts of fracking onshore, we know even less about the impacts of offshore. Any leak, spill, or blowout offshore would be very difficult to detect and contain, especially considering how little is known about the chemicals being used. Exposure to these chemicals could seriously harm the sensitive marine areas in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Santa Barbara Channel, which is where much of this activity is now occurring. Such exposure would not only harm the marine environment, it would also harm our local economy.

That is why I was disappointed that my amendment to simply study the impacts of offshore fracking was ruled out of order. Regardless of your views on offshore drilling, there should be bipartisan agreement that we need to fully understand the impacts of these activities, but the majority blocked debate on this amendment, so we can't even discuss it.

Madam Chair, it is bad enough that offshore fracking is happening without a proper understanding of its impacts, but it is even more troubling that no one even knew that it was happening in the first place. Federal regulators claim they knew about these activities but that they didn't think it was necessary to notify the California Coastal Commission, local officials, or the public. If a spill occurs, the oil and chemicals don't stop at the 3-mile mark where Federal waters end and State waters begin. Whether the spill is 10 miles offshore or 4 miles offshore, those chemicals will flow into State waters, and they will wash up onto our local beaches.

My constituents have a right to know what is happening in their backyards. That is why my amendment would simply ensure that the American public and State regulators, like the California Coastal Commission, are notified whenever a permit to allow offshore fracking is filed. It doesn't slow down or stop these permits from being considered. It simply ensures that all stakeholders know about it and can respond accordingly. If, as the oil companies claim, offshore fracking poses minimal risk, then what is the harm of notifying the public of where and when it is happening?

This is not a partisan idea. Transparency is something both Democrats and Republicans have supported in the past, so I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment to increase transparency in offshore fracking.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, the offshore leasing process is managed by the Federal Government because the Outer Continental Shelves are under Federal jurisdiction; therefore, you have that regulation from the Federal Government.

While there is always process, I suppose, with any regulation, this process is transparent, and the Department is already required to publish a Federal notice prior to any lease sale. In fact, when creating a 5-year plan, the Department is also required to consult with States and localities, and this administration has just started its process right now for the time period of 2017–2022.

This amendment is really a red tape, paperwork nightmare. It would have an overwhelming burdensome effect on all existing offshore operations conducted today in the Outer Continental Shelf by adding an additional layer of bureaucracy and by requiring a notice for every permit application received. The amendment is so broad in its description of well enhancement activities that, essentially, every time a permit application would be received by the Bureau, it would then require a Federal notice.

Just think about that. Every time you have an action like that that requires a Federal notice, does it not logically suggest that that might be open to some sort of legal activity? Maybe that is, perhaps, what the sponsors of this amendment really want to do is to slow the paperwork down so much as to not have the activity of utilizing these resources. This amendment would inhibit offshore safety by turning the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement into a publishing behemoth rather than allowing them to focus on their mission of ensuring safe offshore operations to continue.

Finally, I would make this notation, Mr. Chairman, that all permit applications are made public on the Bureau's Web site—and I will just put it in as part of the RECORD—www.bsee.gov. Why add additional requirements to publish information that is already open and part of that Web site?

This amendment is unnecessary. As I say, I think it would add to the burdensome steps and hoops that one has to go through to utilize these resources that, I think, all Americans want. Keep in mind that the issue here is in the long term, utilizing our resources to become more energy independent and utilizing these resources in the long run to have a vibrant energy component of our national economy. You can't have a growing economy unless you have certainty in the energy sector. This amendment, from my point of view, would slow that process down, so I urge the rejection of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, having witnessed the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, I know firsthand the devastation a community can experience when something goes wrong on offshore oil rigs.

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The marine ecosystem is devastated. Local businesses lose customers, and they lay off workers. Fishing boats are left idle in the harbor.

Given this reality, we owe it to those who suffer the impacts of these spills, these mishaps, to make sure these activities are as safe as possible.

Increasing transparency will strengthen oversight. It will improve safety. This is a commonsense idea that should have bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chairman, again, I rise in opposition to this amendment because of the burdensome paperwork that I think that this would create, but the gentlewoman made an observation that needs to be addressed because she does live in the Santa Barbara area—and yes, they did experience a spill there many years ago.

I would remind my friend from California that also within this legislation is language that strengthens the oversight in a statutory way of activities in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Currently, that is done, not with statutory authority, but with regulatory authority going back to the Reagan administration, so if the gentlewoman really wants to make sure that there is some certainty, so that we won't have these devastating spills in the future, I would invite her to join us in supporting this legislation because we put into law—statutory law—how we should regulate the offshore.

Again, I rise in opposition to this amendment because I think that it is too much—burdensome—from a paperwork standpoint, when the issue is to have certainty in the long term in the energy sector.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

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

Mrs. CAPPS. 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. DEUTCH. 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 52, at line 14 insert ''and'' after the semicolon, at line 17 strike ''; and'' and insert a period, and strike lines 18 and 19.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, it is no surprise that I oppose H.R. 4899. However, my amendment is not an attempt to sabotage the bill. It is an honest attempt to fix a major drafting error within this legislation that could have drastic consequences on our Nation's district courts.

My amendment would strike section 10702(a)(3) of the bill, which mandates that cases involving oil and gas leases ''take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court.''

I am grateful for the opportunity to explain the serious implications of this provision. The provision seems to be directed at concerns that individuals and communities, small businesses, other interests that are not party to the production of an oil and gas lease may file lawsuits to prevent or delay an oil and gas lease from moving forward.

Now, I believe that people have an important interest in the production of oil and gas leases that could impact public health, property, and environmental injuries in the area of release.

I don't support the principle of locking people out of the courtroom. In our Nation, where the courts protect and ensure that individual rights and private property rights are not violated, this provision eliminates court protections of these most basic rights.

The bill, as drafted, is so broad that it does so much more than that, and here is where I hope that opponents and supporters of this bill can come together to fix this error.

As drafted, this language requires cases involving oil and gas leases to skip ahead of ''all other pending matters before the district court.'' That means everything—all pending cases, even cases already on the dockets of each of the judges sitting on the district court.

Because it was so broadly drafted, it contains no language to ensure that the case involving the production of oil and gas leases only receives precedence over pending matters before the district court judge who has been assigned to the oil and gas case.

Is it really the intention of Congress to mandate that legal disputes over oil and gas leases take precedence over every single case already pending in our district courts, including national security cases and high-profile criminal and civil cases? Surely not.

H.R. 4899 already lets oil and gas companies choose between the local district court that oversees Federal property for the leases in question or the District Court for the District of Columbia.

This section, therefore, allows oil and gas cases to bump some of the most important legal cases in the Nation off of the D.C. district court's dockets.

Do the oil and gas industries get to butt in line ahead of victims of massive Ponzi schemes? Do they get to bump ahead of litigation over drone strikes? Do oil and gas companies get to jump ahead of litigation, like the dispute between the House GOP and the Department of Justice over Fast and Furious?

Clearly, that is not what my friends on the other side intended.

Do oil and gas companies get to jump ahead of the prosecution of terrorists, like the mastermind of the appalling attack in Benghazi that claimed the lives of brave and dedicated Americans?

I just cannot fathom that that is the intent of my colleagues, and the implication of this poorly-drafted addition goes beyond the D.C. district court.

The Eastern District Court of Virginia's recent hearing in the case of the individual who plotted to bomb the U.S. Capitol should remind us that, across this country, there are district court hearings—important cases that

shouldn't be put on hold because Congress wants to please Big Oil.

Even with my amendment, H.R. 4899 still includes language that requires cases involving oil and gas to be resolved as expeditiously as possible and not more than 180 days after the claim is filed. Isn't that enough?

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would strike this poorly-drafted provision from the bill. We shouldn't let oil and gas litigation skip ahead of some of the most important national security cases, civil cases, and criminal cases of our time.

At the very least, I would urge my friend, Chairman HASTINGS, to revisit this provision to ensure that it is consistent with the intent of the overall legislation.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I obviously rise in opposition to this amendment, and let me talk about the underlying legislation.

The underlying legislation streamlines the judicial process to ensure that there are timely resolutions of lawsuits that seek to block and slow down American-made energy. That was what the whole idea was.

In fact, I referred to this in my comments on the previous amendment, where we have a lot of litigation slowing down the process, so the intent of the underlying legislation was to make sure that there was a timely response to this, so that there can be, again, some certainty in the process.

Now, what I find interesting—I think the gentleman from Florida makes some valid points as to what, perhaps, the interpretation of the underlying legislation, but I would remind the gentleman that—when this legislation was on the floor as an individual amendment—exact language was in here, the Judiciary Committee—who has jurisdiction, obviously, over this—waived their jurisdiction and felt that the language was very good.

I would certainly be willing to—if the gentleman has a way to maybe fine-tune that, I think that is something that we should look at, but—and this is the important point here, Mr. Chairman, as we debate this amendment—his approach to this is like taking a sledge hammer to a fly.

I don't think that that is the proper way to go because he strikes the whole section dealing with giving priority and trying to get certainty in the judicial process, so I rise in opposition to the gentleman.

I will say to the gentleman, as this legislation moves forward and he has some suggestions—if and when the Senate, by the way, passes legislation and we can fine-tune this—to address, I think, some valid concerns that he has, while still making sure that energy-produced litigation is dealt with in a timely manner. I think there might be some common ground on that.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that his approach, by striking that whole section out of this legislation, is not the proper way to go.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, just to respond to a couple of points, the Judiciary Committee may have waived jurisdiction. As my friend knows, there was no vote to waive jurisdiction. Had there been, I would have raised this very issue then, as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Secondly, if the purpose of this legislation is to streamline lawsuits—and that was the whole idea behind the legislation—then having language that requires these to be heard as expeditiously as possible and not more than 180 days, that does that. That is in the bill, even after this amendment passes.

I can't believe that it was the intention of the drafters of this legislation to put these oil and gas disputes ahead of cases that involve plots to kill Americans, as is the case with the mastermind of the Benghazi attack, individuals who have important civil cases, important criminal cases.

I just can't imagine the dispute between the House GOP and the Justice Department over Fast and Furious—clearly, it wasn't the intent to say that the oil and gas companies are more important than seeing that case through.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this amendment will pass. We don't need to fine-tune the bill. It is clear enough already. I ask my colleagues to support this.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I just want to point out, again, that the Judiciary Committee last year did waive jurisdiction on this, but I do think that the gentleman makes a valid point.

We all know that legislation is a work in progress, many times. As I acknowledge, I think the gentleman raises the point; but, again, Mr. Chairman, the reason why this amendment ought to be rejected is because it takes out the whole section, and now, you are left with a situation where there is not a certainty whatsoever in these lawsuits.

I don't think that is a proper way to go, especially with the volatility of the energy market worldwide. When we have an opportunity to use the resources we have in this country, whether you are talking about offshore or onshore, to ensure not only the safety, but to add certainty to a growing economy, we should take advantage of that.

I would urge rejection of this amendment because I think that what we put in the underlying legislation is valid for what it is attempting to do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. DEUTCH. 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 Florida will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 803. An act to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. 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 title I (page 54, after line 24) add the following:

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 25001. ELIGIBILITY FOR NEW LEASES AND THE TRANSFER OF LEASES.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall not accept bids on any new leases offered pursuant to this title (including the amendments made by this title) from a person described in paragraph (2) unless the person has renegotiated each covered lease with respect to which the person is a lessee, to modify the payment responsibilities of the person to require the payment of royalties if the price of oil and natural gas is greater than or equal to the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) a person that is a lessee that—

(i) holds a covered lease on the date on which the Secretary considers the issuance of the new lease; or

(ii) was issued a covered lease before the date of enactment of this Act, but transferred the covered lease to another person or entity (including a subsidiary or affiliate of the lessee) after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any other person that has any direct or indirect interest in, or that derives any benefit from, a covered lease.

(3) MULTIPLE LESSEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), if there are multiple lessees that own a share of a covered lease, the Secretary may implement separate agreements with any lessee with a share of the covered lease that modifies the payment responsibilities with respect to the share of the lessee to include price thresholds that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(B) TREATMENT OF SHARE AS COVERED LEASE.—Beginning on the effective date of an agreement under subparagraph (A), any share subject to the agreement shall not constitute a covered lease with respect to any lessees that entered into the agreement.

(b) TRANSFERS.—A lessee or any other person who has any direct or indirect interest in, or who derives a benefit from, a covered lease shall not be eligible to obtain by sale or other transfer (including through a swap, spinoff, servicing, or other agreement) any new lease offered pursuant to this title (including the amendments made by this title) or the economic benefit of any such new lease, unless the lessee or other person has—

(1) renegotiated each covered lease with respect to which the lessee or person is a lessee, to modify the payment responsibilities of the lessee or person to include price thresholds that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)); or

(2) entered into an agreement with the Secretary to modify the terms of all covered leases of the lessee or other person to include limitations on royalty relief based on market prices that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LEASE.—The term ''covered lease'' means a lease for oil or gas production in the Gulf of Mexico that is—

(A) in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) issued by the Department of the Interior under section 304 of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (43 U.S.C. 1337 note; Public Law 104-58); and

(C) not subject to limitations on royalty relief based on market price that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(2) LESSEE.—The term ''lessee'' includes any person or other entity that controls, is controlled by, or is in or under common control with, a lessee.

(3) NEW LEASE.—The term ''new lease'' means a lease issued in a lease sale under this title or the amendments made by this title.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this is an old friend to the committee and the floor and my friend, Congressman HASTINGS, and we couldn't have him retire from Congress without doing this one more time.

By way of background for those who haven't walked through this before, in 1995, Congress—desiring to encourage bidding on leases in certain deepwater areas of the Gulf of Mexico—provided relief from the normal applicable royalties payable to the United States.

What we found, in the course of this, is it worked. People bid on the leases, they went in; but we found out that there was no provision for eliminating the royalty exemption if the market price of oil rose back up to reasonable levels.

According to some accounts, this omission might have been an administrative error. What we have found about the mismanagement of the Minerals Management Services—people literally in bed with the people that they were supposed to regulate—it may not have been an administrative oversight, but whatever, it was wrong. It shouldn't have been there.

□ 1015

As a result, now with oil up to $100 a barrel and higher, they are pumping this oil without paying anything to the Federal Government, far beyond what was ever contemplated.

Now my amendment is simple. It gives these companies a choice. They can either renegotiate and execute leases for this oil, which was obviously the intent—there was never any intent to make this permanent on an ongoing basis—and pay reasonable royalties to the United States, especially since a number of these companies are foreign companies, state-owned enterprises, or they simply wouldn't be able to bid for new leases. Their choice. No coercion. But the taxpayers stand to benefit $15.5 billion over the next 10 years, and, in fact, over the life of these leases, $31 billion or more. I respectfully suggest, it is time to approve this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment, and I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks. I guess my career would never be complete unless we did this one more time.

But this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is identical to an amendment that failed 2 years ago in this House, and, I might say, it failed by a broad bipartisan vote.

I will also remind my friend from Oregon that this issue has been repeatedly settled in the Nation's courts of law, with the courts determining that rewriting the terms of these leases to include price thresholds would be a direct violation of contract law. That is what the issue is here really with this.

Now it was during the Clinton administration that this happened. And I agree with the gentleman; it shouldn't have happened. But it happened. And the courts have spoken very clearly on this.

The U.S. Supreme Court found that the Department of the Interior did not have the authority to rewrite these contracts that were issued under the 1995 law. And I will remind the gentleman that the Department of the Interior has lost this issue in the district court, the appellate court, and the Supreme Court.

Ultimately, this amendment seeks to force U.S. companies to break a contract legally negotiated under government law, or else be denied the opportunity to do business in the U.S. The amendment aims to back companies into a corner and attempts to force them to break legally binding contracts. And that, from my point of view, is essentially extorting these companies to undo these contracts.

Now, I want to, again, speak on this just a little bit broader. I would acknowledge that we have the right in this Congress to pass legislation to change that. After all, we are the body that makes the law. But there is a fundamental issue here that I think that we really have to address beyond this: Should Congress be passing legislation that breaks contract law when courts have said repeatedly that contract law should be inviolable? I think that is what the issue is here today.

I understand my friend from Oregon having perhaps some heartburn because this is dealing with oil and gas. I understand that. And frankly, I respect that. But I think that the larger issue here is that we should not be doing what we could do because I think that we should hold contracts, private sector contracts with government, in a higher area than probably some people think we should.

So with that, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, we are not seeking to break contracts. What we are doing is providing an opportunity for people to renegotiate these contracts, to stop making a profit by exploiting a loophole or a mistake that both of us agree was unintended and unfortunate.

This would be their choice. Contracts are renegotiated on an ongoing basis routinely with government and in the private sector. And I would respectfully suggest that this is a contract that is long overdue to be renegotiated.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close.

So at this point, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. How much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, what we are talking about here is obscenely profitable oil companies getting a giveaway while we are running massive deficits.

Now, everyone says that they want to run government like a business and lower deficits. The GAO has estimated that if this is allowed to run its course without any of these leases being renegotiated, it will be a $50 billion windfall to the oil industry—not million, $50 billion.

Now that would be a nice piece of change, both for revenue sharing for the States and for the Federal Treasury. We could apply it all to deficit reduction or other needs, maybe even fund the continuation of the national transportation system. Who knows.

The bottom line is, as the gentleman pointed out, it may or may not have been intentional on the part of people at the then-Minerals Management Service to give away these assets to the oil companies.

But for 3 years before they slept with them—or whatever happened—they did include it in the leases. And then what the Court found was that the law that the Republicans passed in 1995 didn't allow those sorts of conditions to be in the leases.

So this is a new approach. The Republican law was defective. The Clinton administration—at least some members of it—were corrupt. It is a bipartisan problem. Let's fix it in a bipartisan way.

This would just say, if the companies who got this windfall and won that Court case want new leases, we would condition new leases upon them negotiating and paying a fair return to the taxpayers on the old leases and, in that process, make the taxpayers whole.

It is a legal and simple way to fix a problem that was caused both by the law, as written, by the then-majority Republican party and the few corrupt members of the Clinton administration.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, there is an excellent report from the Congressional Research Service on this subject that makes clear that it is not illegal or in violation of contract law. The argument is very sustainable.

And it is not the oil company that gives me heartburn, to my dear friend. I would think any of us would have heartburn if the Federal Treasury, the taxpayers, were cheated out of $25 billion to $50 billion due to an error or an omission. That ought to give heartburn to anybody. This amendment will fix it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of the time.

The observation has been made that these maybe should be renegotiated. Listen, Mr. Chairman, any contract can be renegotiated, as long as both sides want to renegotiate. But that was the law at the time. And what concerns me with this piece of legislation is that it implies there has to be a renegotiation.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to some that they would say that this is the heavy hand of government forcing somebody to do something that they could do under law right now. In some areas, they call that extortion. They may not use that strong of a word, but I am sure that would be implied by some people if they were subject to this.

Again, this amendment has been rejected on a bipartisan basis for the last couple of years. The courts have ruled against this. I think we should follow with that.

With that, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I have a brilliant amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 69, after line 4, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly):

''(F) After the conclusion of the public comment period for a planned competitive lease sale, the Secretary shall not cancel, defer, or withdraw any lease parcel announced to be auctioned in the lease sale.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, so last night, I am watching the Cubs game. And the shortstop, who is on a tear right now as far as hitting, bounces off a foul tip that the replay clearly shows bounced onto the ground. The catcher trapped the ball, and then held it up as saying he had actually caught it. And the umpire, even though this violates the rules of the game, had the power to pick the catcher over the hitter, and he declared that the batter had struck out.

Now even though the Cubs manager went out there, claiming how unfair this was—and I was yelling at the TV screen for hours afterwards—history books will still say that Castro had a strikeout at this particular event.

Now, of course, the unfortunate thing is that our administration and the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management plays this same game of picking catchers over hitters all the time, even though it violates some of the rules.

So, 77 leases were put up for bid in Utah. It took the BLM on the ground 7 years to go through the process. They checked all the boxes. They did the environmental analysis. And the Secretary of the Interior simply canceled them. His reason was, 'cause.

Recently, 56 leases were also set out there for auction. Once again, all the boxes were checked. They got through the process. They did the environmental analysis. The environment assessment was done. Public comment was done. The protest period was finished. And 5 days—5 days—before the auction, a letter comes from a special interest group to the State director for the Bureau of Land Management, a group that had been silent through the entire process. They said nothing during the assessment. They said nothing during the public comment. During the protest period, they said nothing. Here, 2 months after the record was closed, 2 months after the decision had been done with no more access for public comments, the director of the BLM simply says, I am going to pick a special interest group over another interest group, and he canceled these leases.

Schools, the chance of jobs in my State went out, the chance of actually getting royalty payments that would help the kids of my State pay for their education. It was simply done on a whim.

The industry had spent $500,000. Half a million dollars from their recreation and development funds were spent getting ready for this auction. And all of a sudden, a special interest group is given special treatment, and it is taken away.

Now, what government needs, especially out in the local areas, and what business needs is simply certainty. You tell us what the rules are, and they can play by those rules. It is a business necessity to have certainty and not have administrative officials simply change the rules on a whim at some particular time.

It is kind of like, to paraphrase the old Tom Cruise movie: You screwed up. You trusted me.

If we have a policy that is long and it is hard, it gives ample opportunity. But it is proven meaningless if, indeed,

the Bureau of Land Management is able to fervently yield at the eleventh hour to the opinion of some special interest group. All we are asking them to do with this amendment is to simply follow the rules. Don't change things on a whim. Don't pick one group over the other. Don't pick the catcher or the hitter.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, first my condolences to the gentleman from Utah for being a Cubs fan. I am a Red Sox fan, and we have had some problems too. But that was an interesting moment and an interesting analogy made.

Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of the specifics of the instance of which he speaks. But I would say that this, as a remedy for a past action, would apply in the future, and it would not undo whatever took place in the past that the gentleman is referring to. And the principle here is fairly extraordinary. It kind of says, Federal bureaucrats never make mistakes.

So we have proposed leases in an area. We go through a public comment period. Local people comment. A hunting and fishing group comes in and says, you know, this is absolutely, like, the primo area for hunting or fishing or something else. Or it becomes apparent that this is, like, right in a main recreation corridor, something that the Federal bureaucrat overlooked in drawing up the lease boundaries.

But if this were adopted and became law in the future, at the end of the public comment period, it would be, We are the Federal Government. Thank you very much for pointing out that we really screwed that up, that we were just about to wipe out a prime habitat, that we were just about to block or really degrade a prime recreation corridor. We are bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. We didn't realize that. But we are sorry; public comment periods don't mean anything anymore. We cannot condition, withdraw, or change the lease. And that would be it.

□ 1030

I don't think that would be good. I really don't. So, there may have been—and, again, I am not aware of the circumstances to which the gentleman is referring in the specific, but I believe that this amendment, looking forward to whoever is in the White House and whoever is administering these programs, would really preclude any part of the public from having meaningful comment and getting a meaningful response from the Federal bureaucracy which has proposed leasing in their neighborhood.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, before I make a comment about the Red Sox, may I inquire about how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 1¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. With that, I would like to yield 45 seconds to a Mariners fan—tough day down here—the chairman of the committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make this point again. What does this amendment say? It prohibits the Secretary from canceling lease sales previously announced to be auctioned based on public comments received after the comment period was ended.

In other words, what the gentleman is simply saying is let's follow the law. I know he said that, but it is worth repeating. You have a comment period, then a decision is made. Once that decision is made, that should end the issue. Why? Because there is a great deal of capital that has been invested, and as the gentleman from Utah said, that is the certainty that our energy producers need.

Mr. Chairman, what was done in Utah with the canceling of those sales at that time I thought was totally wrong. It was wrong then, it is wrong now, and the court has found that.

Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I do have the right to close, so I will yield myself 90 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, as described, that might be an amendment that would be much more acceptable, but it actually doesn't say that. It says that, after the conclusion of the public comment period for a planned competitive lease sale, the Secretary shall not cancel, defer, or withdraw any lease parcel announced to be auctioned in a lease sale.

Now, what the gentleman described is not what this section F would do. This basically says we listen to people—we listened, we heard, it goes forward. Maybe that is not the intent, and if it isn't the intent, then it would need to be modified. So I believe that the public comment period for leases that are drawn up by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., headquarters should be meaningfully commented upon through a process by people in the vicinity, and their comments should be given some weight in whether or not the lease is modified or goes forward, as I previously described, if it impedes upon prime habitat or particularly on a recreational corridor.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I assume the gentleman has no other speakers?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I do not.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Good. I will finish this. And I appreciate knowing the gentleman from Oregon is a Red Sox fan. That explains so, so much here.

Mr. Chairman, I have to admit that this is probably a needless amendment. One would assume that if you write a law or you write a rule, that is what you do. This amendment basically says that you abide by the rules. Even though you have great and awesome power—never mind the man behind the curtain—you don't change the rules to pick winners and losers and one special interest group over another. You abide by the rule.

In the first 77 lease issue, they had 7 years to go through the process of finding out what it is. This is one of the concepts in which it simply says we are going to obey the law. We are going to abide by the rules so everyone knows what is there and everyone knows with certainty what they can do and for what they should plan, and you don't change it at the last minute because you want to favor one group over another group.

That is why we are doing this. It has happened in the past, it can happen in the future, and it should not.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, again, the sentiments expressed by the gentleman having to do with a particular experience in his State—perhaps his district—is one thing, but this is really clear in the statutory language. It says that we will hold the public comment period. When it closes, the lease goes forward, no matter what we heard.

What the gentleman is talking about is that there was a public comment period. The public comment period was closed, and he says that some time later, outside of the public comment period, someone submitted information which was used and overcame all of the other testimony and/or comments that were provided.

That is a whole different circumstance than what this is. This is very simple. It just says that there will be a public comment period; we will listen; and at the end of that, we don't care what we heard, it has to go forward as proposed.

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

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

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 Utah will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 113–493.

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:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE ___—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 01. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF ENERGY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish an Office of Energy Employment and Training, which shall oversee the hiring and training efforts of the Department of the Interior's energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training, who shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Energy, Lands and Minerals Management, and shall be fully employed to carry out the functions of the Office.

(2) DUTIES.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training shall perform the following functions:

(A) Develop and implement systems to track the Department's hiring of trained skilled workers in the energy permitting and inspection agencies.

(B) Design and recommend to the Secretary programs and policies aimed at expanding the Department's hiring of women, minorities, and veterans into the Department's workforce dealing with energy permitting and inspection programs. Such programs and policies shall include—

(i) recruiting at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(ii) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(iii) placing employment advertisements in newspapers and magazines oriented toward minorities, veterans, and women;

(iv) partnering with organizations that are focused on developing opportunities for minorities, veterans, and women to be placed in Departmental internships, summer employment, and full-time positions relating to energy;

(v) where feasible, partnering with inner-city high schools, girls' high schools, and high schools with majority minority populations to demonstrate career opportunities and the path to those opportunities available at the Department;

(vi) coordinating with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in the hiring of veterans; and

(vii) any other mass media communications that the Deputy Assistant Secretary determines necessary to advertise, promote, or educate about opportunities at the Department.

(C) Develop standards for—

(i) equal employment opportunity and the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the workforce and senior management of the Department; and

(ii) increased participation of minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses in the programs and contracts with the Department.

(D) Review and propose for adoption the best practices of entities regulated by the Department with regards to hiring and diversity policies, and publish those best practices for public review.

(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report regarding the actions taken by the Department of the Interior agency and the Office pursuant to this section, which shall include—

(1) a statement of the total amounts paid by the Department to minority contractors;

(2) the successes achieved and challenges faced by the Department in operating minority, veteran or service-disabled veteran, and women outreach programs;

(3) the challenges the Department may face in hiring minority, veteran, and women employees and contracting with veteran or service-disabled veteran, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses; and

(4) any other information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative or Department action, as the Director determines appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) MINORITY.—The term ''minority'' means United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American.

(2) MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ''minority-owned business'' means a for-profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the United States or its trust territories, that is owned, operated, and controlled by minority group members. ''Minority group members'' are United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American (terminology in NMSDC categories). Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51 percent owned by such individuals or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals. Further, the management and daily operations are controlled by those minority group members. For purposes of NMSDC's program, a minority group member is an individual who is a United States citizen with at least 1/4 or 25 percent minimum (documentation to support claim of 25 percent required from applicant) of one or more of the following:

(A) Asian Indian American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh.

(B) Asian Pacific American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, Samoa, Guam, the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific, or the Northern Marianas.

(C) Black American, which is a United States citizen having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

(D) Hispanic American, which is a United States citizen of true-born Hispanic heritage, from any of the Spanish-speaking areas of the following regions: Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Basin only.

(E) Native American, which means a U.S. citizen enrolled to a federally recognized tribe, or a Native as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

(3) NMSDC.—The term ''NMSDC'' means the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

(4) WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ''women-owned business'' means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is women-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien. Evidence must indicate that—

(A) the contribution of capital or expertise by the woman business owner is real and substantial and in proportion to the interest owned;

(B) the woman business owner directs or causes the direction of management, policy, fiscal, and operational matters; and

(C) the woman business owner has the ability to perform in the area of specialty or expertise without reliance on either the finances or resources of a firm that is not owned by a woman.

(5) SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN.—The term ''Service Disabled Veteran'' must have a service-connected disability that has been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense. The SDVOSBC must be small under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the procurement; the SDV must unconditionally own 51 percent of the SDVOSBC; the SDVO must control the management and daily operations of the SDVOSBC; and the SDV must hold the highest officer position in the SDVOSBC.

(6) VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ''veteran-owned business'' means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is veteran-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien and honorably or service-connected disability discharged from service.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to set a standard for answering the call of 500,000 to 800,000 jobs being created by 2020 that addresses the work in our ongoing and growing energy industry.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Natural Resources Committee chairman, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their leadership on diversifying our employment base. I also want to wish the chairman well as he moves on to other endeavors. He will be missed on his insight.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 4899. The Congress has an affirmative duty to increase diversity in Federal Government as there is an undeniable lack of participation for veterans, women, and minorities in regards to employment, entrepreneurial, and ownership opportunity.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 4899 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish an office of energy employment and training to create economic opportunities that support the agency's hiring and training of veterans, women, and underrepresented minorities. It sets the standard for the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, as a Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the Nation, I have always been mindful of the importance of having strongly advocated for national energy policies—really, all of the above—and to make our Nation energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our Nation's economy strong.

The recent increase in production of unconventional oil and natural gas has provided a lift to the U.S. economy, and Americans are seeing the benefits not only because of the jobs created, but also because household incomes have gone up. It is up to us to have the regulatory structure that protects the

environment but also provides the opportunity for growth and creates jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I did not point out that both the chairman and ranking member have been resolute in their pursuit of the expansion of opportunities in the energy industry. I share that commitment with them, and this amendment is an example of what happens when Members work in good faith across the aisle to find viable solutions.

In this amendment, veterans, minorities, and women recognize that they are significantly underrepresented in the oil and gas industries at all levels and severely underrepresented in the senior managerial, professional, board, and ownership ranks. U.S. competitiveness requires that this Nation increase the number of successful underrepresented minorities in STEM education and careers, which is more essential than ever.

A pipeline of qualified veterans looking for employment will play a key role as the energy industry seeks quality, highly skilled workers. I am committed to honoring our obligations to our Nation's veterans and utilizing the talents of veterans to help the government meet today's dynamic challenges.

Mr. Chairman, the Office of Energy Employment and Training will provide an opportunity to align military and utility job classifications, identify veterans with their desired basic skills, access military personnel during the off-boarding process, and hold training programs.

It is interesting to note that in 2013, the number of STEM jobs in North Dakota increased by 37.2 percent as a direct result of the oil and gas boom in that State.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is the product of a collaborative process between the gentlewoman from Texas and the Natural Resources Committee. For most of this year, the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources has held a series of hearings on American energy jobs focusing on the tremendous job opportunities and demand for educated and skilled workers in the oil and gas industry. A number of those hearings focused directly on veterans, opportunities for veterans, opportunities for women, and opportunities for minorities, not only in the industry, but also within the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment builds on that work by establishing an office in the Department of the Interior to centralize and focus specifically on the dismal record of the Department in these areas. And why do I say that, Mr. Chairman? I say that because we have learned earlier this year from a GAO report that the Department of the Interior has trouble staffing these agencies and fails to utilize all of the tools at their disposal to hire, to train, and to retain staff in these particular areas. And so what this amendment does is centralize what DOE should already be doing, with the focus on veterans, women, and minorities.

So I am prepared to accept this amendment, and I look forward to working with the sponsor on this and other areas that we can agree upon.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for his astute reflection on the work that we have done and I have done over the years. I introduced H.R. 70 and H.R. 3710 that dealt with coastal restoration and the utilization of training for our young people and our veterans.

So as I conclude and thank the chairman for his acknowledgment, along with the ranking member, of their work on the committee dealing with diversification, the Jackson Lee amendment will help prepare a diverse population of workers from across the country with diverse backgrounds to enter in exciting and rewarding careers in American energy jobs.

Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Centers of Excellence, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, and women colleges and universities will become engaged by a direct pipeline into the Department of the Interior that will foster collaboration, mentorships, and partnerships through effective job training that will yield employment opportunities. The Department of the Interior will be responsible for fostering diversity in management, employment, and business activities. It will be the light at the end of the tunnel creating a pathway for the 800,000 jobs.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like to put into the RECORD the Employment Outlook for African Americans and Latinos In the Upstream Oil and Natural Gas Industry.

[An IHS Report, Nov. 2012]

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LATINOS IN THE UPSTREAM OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

(Prepared for the American Petroleum Institute, API)

KEY FINDINGS

Oil and natural gas will remain as the main source of fuel for decades to come as other forms of energy also become commercially viable. In fact, in early November 2012, the International Energy Agency (IEA) projected that the United States will become the world's top oil producer by 2020 and that North America would be in a position to export more oil than it imports by 2030.

These findings underscore the critical importance of the analysis and findings of a new IHS report entitled Employment Outlook for African Americans and Latinos in the Upstream Oil and Natural Gas Industry (2012). Principal findings of the new IHS report Include:

More than 500,000 jobs projected to be created by 2020 and over 800,000 jobs created by 2030 in the upstream oil and natural gas industry under pro-energy development policies.

Job growth would be geographically diverse. Over half of the job growth, 417 thousand jobs, is expected in the Gulf region. The East region is expected to contribute nearly 140 thousand job opportunities and the Rockies region nearly 116 thousand job opportunities. The West, Alaska, and Central regions will combine to contribute approximately 138 thousand job opportunities.

Central to this analysis is workforce training critical to the projected U.S. petroleum industry growth to keep the nation at a competitive advantage and to provide the energy the nation depends upon. African Americans and Hispanic Americans represent a critically vital and available talent pool to help meet the demands of the projected growth and expansion. For African Americans and Hispanics to be competitive for the 800,000 potential new jobs it will require:

Significant improvement in minority preparation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related disciplines at the primary and secondary school levels—a national priority;

Significant improvement in high school completion rates for Hispanics and African Americans;

Secondary and post-secondary staff (i.e., principals, deans, teachers, faculty, counselors) should be trained to inform their students on the workforce opportunities in the petroleum industry, specifically in the regions identified, and the training required;

An increase the labor force participation rates of African Americans and Hispanics;

Sixty-two percent of the job growth are estimated to be in blue collar jobs that would require a high school diploma and some additional training such as community college vocational degrees and certificates;

Twenty-one percent of the job growth will require training in engineering (petroleum, etc.), geoscience fields, management, business, and finance, and as technicians;

Partnerships between higher education and industry, especially at the community college level would yield near term positive results;

Hispanic and African American students with high school diplomas and some additional training at community colleges in skills related to the oil and gas industry are immediately competitive for current job opportunities;

African American and Hispanic students who successfully complete college degrees related to the oil and natural gas industry, e.g., petroleum engineering, would be highly competitive for workforce placement;

Wages in the upstream oil and natural gas industry, across many professions, far exceed the national average wage rate;

Some portion of the job opportunities would be in geographic locations away from segments of minority populations and may require relocation;

Employment in the oil and gas industry can provide a reliable means to a better than average quality of life for Hispanics and African Americans for decades to come.

Both challenges and opportunities exist going forward. Raising educational achievement for large segments of the upcoming generation is resource intensive and will take decades to achieve. However, the payoff of an increased skilled labor pool would be enormous to society in general and U.S. industry in particular. This report illustrates

that there are significant opportunities for African Americans and Hispanics throughout the petroleum industry currently and well into the future at each level of education and training.

III. MINORITY AND FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN 2010

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The three segments of the U.S. oil and gas industry and the petrochemical industry together employed a total of 1.2 million people in 2010 (see Table III.1).

The upstream segment, with employment of 721 thousand, accounted for 60% of the total, followed by the downstream segment with 23%.

African American workers held 98 thousand jobs in these industries in 2010, accounting for 8.2% of total employment. Their share within the petrochemical industry was 11.2%.

Hispanic workers held 188 thousand jobs across all four industry segments—15.7% of the total. They accounted for a higher share of employment in the upstream segment than in the other segments.

Table III.1—AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BY SEGMENT: 2010 TOTAL

	Total	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream	Petro-chemicals
Total	1,198,590	720,911	42,079	279,162	156,438
African American	97,789	57,886	2,262	20,043	17,598
Hispanic	188,088	136,265	4,440	28,426	18,957
Minority Shares by Segment					
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
African American	8.2%	8.0%	5.4%	7.2%	11.2%
Hispanic	15.7%	18.9%	10.6%	10.2%	12.1%
Shares by Segment in Each Occupation					
Total	100.0%	60.1%	3.5%	23.3%	13.1%
African American	100.0%	59.2%	2.3%	20.5%	18.0%
Hispanic	100.0%	72.4%	2.4%	15.1%	10.1%

EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER

Women accounted for 19% of total employment in the combined oil and gas and petrochemical industries. Their share is higher in the downstream and petrochemical segments (25%) and lower in the upstream and midstream segments (15–16%). (See Table III.2.)

The female share of employment in these industries is much lower for the Hispanic population—only 13%.

The incidence of female employment for the African American population in the oil & gas industry generally mirrors the nationwide pattern for the industry, at a share of 19%. In the midstream industry there is a higher female share.

TABLE III.2—FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BY SEGMENT: 2010

	Total	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream	Petro-Chemicals
Total	1,198,590	720,911	42,079	279,162	156,438
Female	225,687	110,350	6,840	69,140	39,357
Male	972,903	610,561	35,239	210,022	117,081
Percent Female	19%	15%	16%	25%	25%
African American	97,789	57,886	2,262	20,043	17,598
Female	18,953	9,239	594	4,806	4,314
Male	78,836	48,647	1,668	15,237	13,284
Percent Female	19%	16%	26%	24%	25%
Hispanic	188,088	136,265	4,440	28,426	18,957
Female	25,335	13,648	554	5,647	5,486
Male	162,753	122,617	3,886	22,779	13,471
Percent Female	13%	10%	12%	20%	29%

Ms. JACKSON LEE. So, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me indicate that our task here is to create jobs. We understand that there are 300,000 vets that, in fact, may need unemployment insurance. We want them to have jobs, along with women and minorities, and so I would ask my colleagues to accept the Jackson Lee amendment, and I thank the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their leadership and commitment.

I also wish the Chairman well as he moves on to other endeavors. He will be missed.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment #9 to H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act of 2014.

Congress has an affirmative duty to increase diversity in the federal government as there is an undeniable lack of participation for veterans, women and minorities in regards to employment, entrepreneurial and ownership opportunities.

The Jackson Lee Amendment #9 to H.R. 4899 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Office of Energy Employment and Training to create economic opportunities that support the Agency's hiring and training of veterans, women and underrepresented minorities.

As the Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the nation, I have always been mindful of the importance and have strongly advocated for national energy policies that will make our nation more energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our nation's economy strong.

The recent increase in production of unconventional oil and natural gas has provided a lift to the U.S. economy and Americans are seeing the benefits not only because of the jobs created but also because household incomes have seen an increase as a result of lower energy costs.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that both the Chairman and Ranking Member have been resolute in their pursuit of the expansion of opportunities in the energy industry. I share that commitment with them—and this amendment is an example of what happens when Members work in good-faith across the aisle to find viable solutions.

We all know that while government may not be able to solve all problems—it can be a bridge to solving some—and ''the great mitigator'' for others.

Veterans, minorities and women are significantly underrepresented in the oil and gas industries at all levels and severely underrepresented in the senior managerial, professional, board and ownership ranks. U.S. competitiveness requires that this nation increases the number of successful underrepresented minorities in STEM education and careers, is more essential than ever.

A pipeline of qualified veterans looking for employment could play a key role as the energy industry seeks quality, highly skilled workers. I am committed to honor our obligations to our Nation's veterans; utilize the talents of veterans to help the Government meet today's dynamic challenges; and create a program worthy of emulation by the private sector.

The Office of Energy Employment and Training will provide an opportunity to align military and utility job classifications, identify veterans with the desired basic skills, access military personnel during the off-boarding process and hold training programs specifically for targeted veteran cohorts.

Underrepresented minorities seeking STEM jobs cannot solely rely upon advanced degree programs, but must be able to pursue a number of routes to good paying STEM jobs. A highly focused area for STEM education and job opportunities can be found in the oil and gas industry.

For example, 2001–13 the number of STEM jobs in North Dakota increased by 37.2 percent as a direct result of the oil and gas boom

in that state. North Dakota exceeded the nation in life, physical and social science technicians and the state is close to the national average for engineering technicians, physical scientists and life scientists.

Nationally, in 2010 there were 1.2 million people employed in the oil and gas industry of those persons only: 98,000 or 8.2% are African Americans; 188,000 or 15.7% are Hispanics; and 225,687 jobs or 19% are women.

The 2014 report prepared by the American Petroleum Institute states the oil and gas industry and petrochemical industry could create between 940,000 to 1.3 million employment opportunities between now and 2030.

Only a small fraction of these new jobs will come as a result of retirements.

The major factor for employment demands for the oil and gas industry is natural growth that will occur and investment by the industry and the influence of energy demand by a growing economy.

There a significantly larger number and variety of good paying jobs in the oil and gas industry. In 2011, the average oil field worker earned $35,590, slightly higher than the national average; those working in natural gas distribution earned an average of $38,870 per year. The states with the highest pay included Alaska, at $48,370; Montana at $45,870 per year; Wyoming, at $41,130; and North Dakota, at $40,340 per year.

Minorities comprise 26% of the oil and gas labor force in 2010 and that number is expected to grow to 325 by 2030. In 2010 women were 17% of the oil and gas labor force and their number is expected to drop to less than 15% in 2030.

The lower employment prospects for women are a direct consequence of the extreme level of underrepresentation in the energy sector.

A closer look at the employment prospects for minorities' reveals that African-Americans like are projected to experience a decline in employment in the oil and gas industry due to underrepresentation of African Americans.

The level of underrepresentation of minorities and women is reflected in oil and gas industry senior and professional ranks. Minorities comprise 15% of management and professionals working in the oil and gas industry and are projected to comprise 17% by 2030.

When compared to all blue collar jobs2–minorities make up 21% of the jobs, and in 2010 they comprised 38% of blue collar jobs.

Women do slightly better with a 24% in 2010, and are expected to hold this percentage of the blue collar job market to 2030.

Our booming energy sector has been one of the greatest American success stories in the last decade, and remains a bright spot in our economy as it continue to fuel job creation. To continue this success we need a diverse energy workforce that is equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of our new energy landscape.

The Jackson Lee amendment will help prepare a diverse population of workers from across the country with diverse backgrounds to enter into exciting and rewarding careers in American energy jobs.

Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Centers of excellence, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions and Women Colleges and Universities will become more engaged by a direct pipeline into the Department of Interior that will foster collaboration, mentorships and partnerships through effective job training that will yield employment opportunities.

In closing, I ask my colleagues, to support the Jackson Lee amendment that will address the ability and potential of people who are traditionally underrepresented in energy-production activities by creating an Office of Energy Employment and Training, which will oversee the hiring and training efforts of the Department of Interior's energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies.

The Department of the Interior will be responsible for fostering diversity in management, employment, and business activities.

Again, I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their outstanding leadership.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 title II, add the following:

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 25001. CERTAIN REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS ACT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION TO LIMIT EXCESSIVE SPECULATION IN ENERGY MARKETS.

The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

''SEC. 44. REVENUES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TREASURY ACCOUNT.—The Secretary of the Treasury (in this section referred to as the 'Secretary') shall establish an account in the Treasury of the United States.

''(b) DEPOSIT INTO ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS ACT.—The Secretary shall deposit into the account established under subsection (a) the first $10,000,000 of the total of the amounts received by the United States under leases issued under this Act or any plan, strategy, or program under this Act.

''(c) AVAILABILITY AND USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amounts in the account established under subsection (a) shall be made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its existing authorities to limit excessive speculation in energy markets.

''(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority provided in paragraph (1) may be exercised only to such extent, and with respect to such amounts, as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

□ 1045

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, the chief executive officer of ExxonMobil, under oath before the United States Senate, testified 3 years ago that the price of oil was $30 to $40 higher than it should have been, and the price at that time was about $100 a barrel, a little less than it is today. So $30 to $40 of the cost of each barrel of oil didn't have to do with the company passing through exploratory costs or lease costs or anything else; 30 to 40 percent of the cost of every barrel of oil is due to speculation by commodities traders on Wall Street, flash traders, derivatives traders, and others.

This isn't your grandfather's swaps market or commodities market. It is not users hedging themselves against future inflation. It is not producers hedging themselves. No, it is rampant speculation by people who have no intention of ever accepting delivery of a barrel of oil, have no use for a barrel of oil, except to manipulate its price to make it more expensive to make money for themselves and the people they represent, which is a very small minority of Americans, less than 1 percent. Meanwhile, the other 99 percent of Americans pay more at the pump.

We should do something about this. Now, there are those who think the modest position limits in Dodd-Frank will be a horrible, onerous burden on these speculators, and that maybe they can only extract $20 a barrel—maybe only $10 a barrel out of us—so you would only be paying an extra 30 cents at the pump to Wall Street. But as it stands today, after you take out other associated costs, about 60 cents a gallon that every American is paying at the pump today, no matter what the price is, where they live in the country, whether it is very high or very low, is going to Wall Street speculative interests.

We should do something about that. If we want to provide relief to the American people at the pump, we should do something about that.

This amendment is very simple. It establishes an account where money from lease sales would go to this account, and it would be made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission so they could upgrade their computers and do other things to better track and rein in speculators. Basically, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has been choked to the point, in terms of personnel and equipment, I think they are still using Commodore 64s, and they are trying to chase supercomputers. We can do better, and we could do something real for the American people here today other than Groundhog Day on the fifth anniversary and repassage of this legislation that will not become law.

Now there are those who will say you are increasing the deficit or whatever. No, it just says those leasing moneys would be put into this account, and they would be subject to appropriation. We would then have to convince the Appropriations Committee that it would be a good thing to upgrade the Commodity Futures Trading Commission so they could crack down on some

of the flash trading and speculation that creates volatility and higher prices for Americans. I think this would be a very good thing to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is another attempt to prove the unfounded position that speculation in energy markets is impacting energy prices. Last year the Massachusetts Institute of Technology released a study showing that:

> Speculation had little, if any, effect on prices and volatility.

So this amendment then distracts from focusing really on future energy needs in our country and increasing our energy supply and production in our country.

The underlying legislation simply ensures that American energy production can move forward to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign imports, therefore increasing revenues to the Federal treasury, and, of course, contribute to economic growth.

Instead, this amendment I think would waste millions of dollars to try to find proof that speculation increases energy prices—a fact that has been disproven.

I might add too, Mr. Chairman, that an amendment of this nature has repeatedly been defeated on a bipartisan vote in the committee, and not only in the committee but also in the full House of Representatives. I urge rejection of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an article from Oil Daily in 2008, and it is on the subject of a 1-day increase of $17.51 in the price of a barrel of oil, and they go on to say nothing in the world happened, that traders were astonished and horrified with the volatility, and this should really settle the argument whether this is speculation or fundamentals at work. There is massive speculation in this market.

Even the chairman of ExxonMobil says that a good deal of the price being paid at the pump has to do with speculation. We can whistle past the graveyard and continue to bow to Wall Street and defer to them, but this is the reality. I wish that we would do something about it, but I fear we won't because they are very generous in even-numbered years.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Since it was established in earlier debate that the gentleman from Oregon is a Red Sox fan, let me quote here from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which of course they are in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and probably most of them are Red Sox fans. I will conclude here again on the issue of speculation. They conclude with this sentence:

> When we focus on four specific periods of price runups, we find that speculation may have decreased prices by about 1.4 percent on average.

In other words, what the gentleman is saying, in suggesting in his amendment that we should be studying speculation because it raises prices, here is a report from presumably a lot of Red Sox fans who believe that speculation might have driven prices down. Again, we have gone through this before not only in the committee but also in the House. It has been rejected. I urge we reject it one more time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 Oregon will be postponed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOODALL, 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. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1102

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) kindly assume the chair.

□ 1103

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 113–493 offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) had been 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 113–493 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Amendment No. 5 by Mrs. CAPPS of California.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. DEUTCH of Florida.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon.

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. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113–493 by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 172, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 360]

AYES—244

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
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
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—172

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garcia
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Clarke (NY)
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Thompson (PA)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1133

Messrs. PAYNE and DANNY DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. SHUSTER and MCINTYRE changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. DOYLE was allowed to speak out of order.)

53RD ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL GAME

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by congratulating our Republican opponents for putting up a hard-fought game in last night's Congressional Roll Call game.

As you know, we broke two records. Last night, we broke an attendance record and a record for the amount of money raised for the charities. We raised over $400,000 for three charities. They were the real winners last night.

I want to congratulate the Democratic baseball team. This is our sixth victory in a row, not that we are counting. Our guys played a hard-fought game.

I want to very quickly single out two people that I think really made a difference. They both played second base. One was RAUL RUIZ, our MVP, who made some outstanding plays; and second, our co-MVP, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, brought the crowd to its feet.

With that, I yield to my good friend and Republican manager, JOE BARTON.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman. I almost objected to unanimous consent, but I decided it is tradition.

Mr. Chairman, the Republicans wish to congratulate our friends on the minority side for their victory. It was well earned. We fought hard, but we ended up this year in second place—one game behind. That is not bad, but it is not first place.

We had some great players on our team. Our MVP, KEVIN BRADY, was two for three. He made CEDRIC sweat a little bit.

JEFF FLAKE, our Senator from Arizona, stepped on third on a hard smash and made a throw to Mr. ROONEY at first base for a double play. We threw a man out at the plate. Mr. SHIMKUS came in as a relief pitcher and shut the Democrats down for several innings. So we had some bright spots.

The sixth victory in a row was well earned, but I will say that trophy is on loan. It is not permanently on that side of the aisle.

While you have won six games in a row, we have won about 60 votes in a row here on the House floor.

Mr. DOYLE. I will tell the gentleman that won't be permanent either.

Mr. BARTON. We are willing to bet some money on that for a little bit.

In any event, charity was the big winner. As you pointed out, we set a record for money raised for the Washington Literacy Center; the Boys and Girls Club of Washington, D.C.; and the Dream Foundation for the Nationals.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. DOYLE, and your team.

To my Republican players: I am very proud of you. Our guys played hard and practiced hard. I will say we graciously suffered being on the wrong end of the score once again.

Congratulations to MIKE DOYLE and the Democrats.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. YODER). Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) 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 will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 232, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 361]

AYES—179

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
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

NOES—232

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

NOT VOTING—21

Chu
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Pelosi
Polis
Rangel
Rokita
Thompson (PA)

□ 1142

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) 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 will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 227, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 362]

AYES—183

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
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

NOES—227

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

Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—22

Becerra
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Coble
DeFazio
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Pelosi
Polis
Rangel
Thompson (PA)

□ 1146

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) 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 will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 223, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 363]

AYES—188

Amash
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
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

NOES—223

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cárdenas
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
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
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Massie
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
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—21

Becerra
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Ellison
Gohmert
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Hartzler
Hinojosa
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Thompson (PA)

□ 1150

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

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

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 229, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 364]

AYES—179

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

Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—229

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Price (GA)
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—24

Becerra
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Ellison
Fortenberry
Garcia
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Hinojosa
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Rangel
Stivers
Thompson (PA)

□ 1153

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chair, on rollcall Nos. 361, 362, 363, and 364, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all four (4) amendments.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

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

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 173, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 365]

AYES—241

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
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
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—173

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan

Price (NC)
Quigley
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Becerra
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Thompson (PA)

□ 1157

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 365, I inadvertently cast a no vote on Mr. BISHOP of Utah's Amendment #8. I intended to vote yes on the amendment, which prohibits the Administration from retroactively canceling energy development leases based on information never considered during the public comment process.

Stated against:

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 365 on H.R. 4899, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) 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 will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 223, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 366]

AYES—189

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
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.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
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

NOES—223

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
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
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Becerra
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Lowey
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nolan
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Stivers
Thompson (PA)

□ 1200

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) 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. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 641, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Bishop of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4899 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 59, at line 18 strike the closing quotation marks and the second period, and after line 18 insert the following:

''(F) ENSURING A FAIR RETURN FOR TAXPAYERS.—Subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) shall apply with respect to a permit application submitted by a major integrated oil company (as defined in section 167(h)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) only if the company enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior under which the company is prohibited from claiming the domestic production activities deduction under section 199 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to activities conducted under any permit issued pursuant to the application.''.

Add at the end the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 30001. PROTECTING AMERICAN CONSUMERS FROM HIGH ENERGY PRICES.

Any lease issued pursuant to this Act shall specify that crude oil and natural gas produced under such lease may be exported only if the Secretary of the Interior determines that exporting such crude oil or natural gas, respectively, will not increase the price of gasoline or home heating oil for consumers in the United States.

Mr. BISHOP of New York (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a motion to recommit. This is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately be amended and proceed to final passage.

The bill before us does not represent a substantive effort to empower America's middle class to move up the ladder of success or put Americans back to work. Though creatively titled, it instead represents another effort by the majority to look out for special interests already doing well from a Tax Code stacked against millions of our hardworking constituents.

Under the guise of attempting to lower gasoline prices, Republicans are using this bill as a vehicle to steer control of our Nation's precious natural resources to companies that accounted for nearly $100 billion in profits in 2013. It is a textbook example of corporate welfare run amok.

My final amendment will add two critical components to the underlying bill. First, none of the big five oil companies will be granted a new lease to drill on Federal lands without first foregoing the massive subsidies that they receive from American taxpayers.

This would result in nearly $10 billion of savings that could be put towards the pressing national priorities that need our attention, but are being ignored by this House—education, the highway trust fund, unemployment insurance, or a permanent Medicare reimbursement fix.

Second, oil companies will not be permitted to export U.S. oil or natural gas, if doing so will increase domestic prices of gasoline or home heating oil. In other words, if the government is going to make drilling easier for the big oil companies, let's make sure the benefits are passed on to the American people, rather than the corporate bottom line or foreign consumers.

We all want lower gas prices. In my district on Long Island, gas prices just went over $4 a gallon. That is almost a half a buck increase in the last 4 months. Democrat or Republican, all of us recognize that lower gas prices are desirable for American families.

Let us also remember that the price of oil results from a combination of both supply and demand. As more and more Chinese nationals purchase cars, increased demand on the global gasoline marketplace will lead to higher gas prices, regardless of U.S. or international oil production.

In fact, since 2010, China alone has consumed about half of the extra oil that has been produced during this current oil production boom. This bill will do nothing to actually lower prices at the pump.

Claiming this bill is a panacea to fix the problem of sky-high prices is just plain wrong. Without the protections contained within this motion to recommit, the underlying bill could very well result in lower prices at the pump in China and higher prices here at home. This is unacceptable and—I am sure—not what my friends across the aisle have in mind.

American energy independence is more achievable than ever. In fact, domestic oil production is at a 25-year high, while net imports are at a 29-year low. Let's support the American middle class by adding these vital consumer protections to the underlying bill. I urge passage of this motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is one more procedural motion, and it seems to me we see a pattern here of procedural motions that distinguish the difference in philosophies between the two parties here. This is a good case in point.

It seems like the Democrats' response to higher gas prices is to what? Tax, tax, tax. Our response to higher gas prices is to create an American energy system that creates jobs, jobs, jobs.

Let's be clear. If you want to lower gas prices in this country, you produce more gasoline here. If you want to stop OPEC's influence in an international market, you produce more here, and if you want to create a growing economy that can sustain itself over time, you produce more energy here.

This is a MTR that does none of that. Vote against the MTR and the underlying bill.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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 177, noes 235, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 367]

AYES—177

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—235

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

NOT VOTING—20

Becerra	Hartzler	Noem
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Nunnelee
Coble	Kirkpatrick	Polis
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Rangel
Ellison	McCollum	Thompson (PA)
Grimm	Miller, George	Tipton
Hanna	Napolitano	

□ 1215

Mr. HINOJOSA changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 229, noes 185, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 368]

AYES—229

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

NOES—185

Barber	Green, Gene	Pascrell
Bass	Grijalva	Pastor (AZ)
Beatty	Gutiérrez	Payne
Becerra	Hahn	Pelosi
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Peters (CA)
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Peters (MI)
Bonamici	Higgins	Pingree (ME)
Brady (PA)	Himes	Pocan
Braley (IA)	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Brown (FL)	Holt	Quigley
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Richmond
Bustos	Horsford	Roybal-Allard
Butterfield	Hoyer	Ruiz
Capps	Huffman	Runyan
Capuano	Israel	Ruppersberger
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Rush
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cartwright	Jones	Sanchez, Loretta
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sanford
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sarbanes
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cicilline	Kennedy	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schneider
Clay	Kind	Schrader
Cleaver	Kuster	Schwartz
Clyburn	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Scott, David
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Serrano
Conyers	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lewis	Shea-Porter
Courtney	Lipinski	Sherman
Crowley	LoBiondo	Sinema
Cummings	Loebsack	Sires
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Smith (NJ)
DeFazio	Lowey	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Speier
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Lynch	Takano
DelBene	Maffei	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	Maloney, Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Doggett	Matsui	Titus
Doyle	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Duckworth	McDermott	Tsongas
Edwards	McGovern	Van Hollen
Engel	McNerney	Vargas
Enyart	Meeks	Veasey
Eshoo	Meng	Vela
Esty	Michaud	Velázquez
Farr	Moore	Visclosky
Fattah	Moran	Walz
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Waters
Frelinghuysen	Neal	Waxman
Fudge	Negrete McLeod	Welch
Gabbard	Nolan	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	O'Rourke	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Pallone	
Garcia		
Grayson		
Green, Al		

NOT VOTING—18

Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	Napolitano
Coble	Kilmer	Noem
Cole	Kirkpatrick	Nunnelee
Ellison	Larsen (WA)	Polis
Grimm	McCollum	Rangel
Hanna	Miller, George	Thompson (PA)

□ 1226

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2014.

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

There was no objection.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATION RECOVERS 168 JUVENILES

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the FBI, local and State law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for successfully conducting a weeklong operation to address commercial child sex trafficking in the United States.

During this operation, more than 168 juveniles being exploited through commercial child sex trafficking were rescued by law enforcement. The youngest of these victims was just 11 years old, and some of the victims had never even been reported as missing. The operation spanned across 106 different cities and resulted in 281 pimps being arrested who were recruiting minors off the streets and online.

While the operation was a success, it absolutely underscores the need for action to combat child sex trafficking. The House has passed five different bipartisan bills to protect and help victims, go after the pimps and the johns, and also end international sex trafficking. We need the Senate to take action as well, Mr. Speaker.

These are children. And by working together with law enforcement and victims' groups, we will save lives.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our future is clouded by ocean acidification. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, ocean waters have seen a 30 percent increase in acidity. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by the end of this century, the waters of the ocean could be nearly 150 percent more acidic, resulting in a pH that the oceans haven't seen for more than 20 million years.

This will have a dramatic and devastating effect on many marine creatures. It disrupts the calcification process of many species, including oysters, clams, corals, and plankton, putting the entire food chain at risk.

This will damage California's $24 billion fishing industry, which supports 145,000 jobs; and California's $25 million-a-year shellfish industry could also disappear.

We need to take action to prevent the effects of climate change from getting worse. We cannot stand by as we see our environment continue to deteriorate. The cost of inaction is too great. I call on this Congress to act to protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

□ 1230

JOBS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, President Obama was in my home State of Pennsylvania recently to tour a business and talk about the importance of American manufacturing.

If the President is serious, let me give him a few suggestions on things he can do right now—call for the quick passage of the Made in America Act to establish an official American-made standard; announce his support for a bipartisan plan to address the skills gap; use his pen to approve the Keystone XL pipeline; and truly take steps towards an all-of-the-above American energy policy that drives down energy costs for everyone; and increase pressure on the Senate to move on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills that will grow our economy, increase stability, and empower businesses and employees.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, Americans are tired of talk. Now is the time for bold action to help manufacturers, working families, and our Nation—politics aside.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago tomorrow, the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass a bill that is good for our economy, strengthens our security, and recognizes the contributions that immigrants make to our country.

This bill represents a good faith compromise by our Senate colleagues to find common ground. Over the past year, House Republicans failed to even bring an immigration bill up for a vote.

Earlier this year, Republican leadership outlined their principles for immigration reform, yet failed to introduce a bill based on these principles. They have claimed they want to pass reform, but their actions fail to match the rhetoric.

Instead of bringing up comprehensive legislation that spurs economic growth and lowers the deficit, we have seen attacks on DREAMers and excuses for inaction.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have acted. Democrats in the House support reform and have also introduced a bill. A broad coalition—from the high-tech sector to law enforcement, the faith community to agriculture—backs reform.

The American people overwhelmingly favor a comprehensive bill. The only ones standing in the way are House Republicans. It is time to do what is right for our country and bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a vote now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF RYAN SEKERSKI OF COCHRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ORDINARY AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from back in my district, Ryan Sekerski, a 28-year veteran of a volunteer fire department.

Now, this is a picture of Mr. Sekerski with his family. We celebrated his act of heroism. I have no idea how he is registered or how he votes, but I do know where his heart is.

What you are looking at is a tanker truck. Now, Mr. Sekerski, on his way home from work, heard on a radio that a gas tanker truck had swerved to avoid being in a collision, had hit a utility pole, was on its side, and seeping gas out that was on fire.

When he arrived at the scene, his question was: Is the driver okay? Nobody knew the answer.

When he found out the driver was still inside this truck, he went to his trunk, got on his volunteer fireman's gear, went inside this burning inferno, with no regard for his own life and his own safety, but more regard for the person trapped inside—what a remarkable act of heroism.

At a time when our country is looking for strong Americans, people like Ryan Sekerski are ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day.

Why? Because they are truly Americans—especially on the weekend we have coming up, we celebrate these types of people and what they have done.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDSOR RULING

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today is the 1-year anniversary of the historic decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act. We celebrate the progress we have made for LGBT equality; but, more importantly, we must recommit to ending the injustice that remains.

An announcement last week by the administration regarding ongoing efforts to extend Federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples in the wake of that Windsor decision clarifies what I have long suspected.

Unless Congress acts, legally married same-sex servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses will continue to face discrimination when accessing their benefits from the VA.

That is why, nearly a year ago, I introduced H.R. 2529, the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that no

veterans or their families are denied benefits they deserve, regardless of where they live.

Members of the military do not serve in defense of the rights and freedoms of a particular State, but rather of the United States.

My colleagues have a choice to stand with our veterans and their families or stand silent while they continue to face discrimination by the very government they fought to defend.

EPA DEEMS OWNERSHIP OF AMERICA'S WATERWAYS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, they are at it again. It is another overreach by this administration. This time, the U.S. EPA is reaching not only what you might term navigable waterways, but all waterways of the United States they want to deem as theirs.

This would mean mud puddles, and this would mean irrigation ditches and drainage ditches. They want to have jurisdiction over everything, so they can regulate it, tax it, and what-have-you.

It goes way beyond anything that has ever been legislated in this body and is a complete overreach. The U.S. EPA needs to withdraw this proposed rule. It is outside of the law.

It is outside of the ability of our people to have private property rights and to have an economy, especially in rural America, where farming, ranching, and timber operations can all be affected by a vast overreach by the U.S. EPA.

They need to withdraw this rule. We need to hear from the American people how this is going to affect them in their jobs in their local economies.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 73 days ago, 200 Nigerian girls were kidnapped by the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram. This story tugged at hearts around the world and led to an international outcry for these girls' rescue, but 73 days later, we cannot allow this story to fade from the headlines. The violence of Boko Haram increases by the day.

Mr. Speaker, instead of focusing on rescuing these girls, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan's attention is on his next election. He spent $1.2 million to improve his image by hiring a Washington PR firm.

President Jonathan needs to rearrange his priorities. I can think of quite a few things he can do with the $1.2 million. The first thing he should do is find those girls.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we cannot let up the pressure. I urge you to join our Twitter war to keep the world's attention on the kidnapping of these children. Tweet #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson every day, 9 a.m. to noon.

We will not be silenced. We will not be stopped. We will get our girls back. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

CHERISHING OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise the attention of my colleagues to several moments.

First, I would like to celebrate the passage of my amendment that just passed in legislation H.R. 4899, to create a job training and employment department or section in the Department of the Interior for veterans, minorities, and women. With 800,000 jobs on the horizon in the energy industry, this is an American job creator. I am excited about that amendment.

With sadness, Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague, Congresswoman WILSON. We joined each other in a delegation to Nigeria, meeting with girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, and in the backdrop of the tragedy of the bombing of a mall and killing more people, it is time for Boko Haram to be stopped and the girls to be brought back.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I go down to the valley in Texas to address the question of those desperate children—this humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children—we introduced legislation today to create 70 more immigration judges, so that they can be addressed. This is a crisis which America is dealing with, and we should recognize it as a humanitarian crisis.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, bring the girls back in Nigeria. Help the children that are coming across our border. Let us have a heart when it comes to children.

PRESERVING THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time.

I don't know if you have seen the headlines yet, Mr. Speaker, you have been busy with votes all day long, but the Supreme Court, in a 9–0 decision, today struck down the National Labor Relations Board so-called recess appointments that the President made there over the Christmas season in 2011–2012—9–0.

I hear a lot about the Supreme Court being a divided body, Mr. Speaker. 9–0, the Supreme Court said that the President of the United States had absolutely no constitutional authority to name members of the National Labor Relations Board without Senate approval.

They said that the recess appointment power that is provided the President in the Constitution of the United States is not there, so that the President of the United States can avoid Senate approval.

It is there, so that the Nation can continue to run in the absence of the Senate being in session, in order to give its approval.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I bring that up is because that was yet another decision—in a long line of decisions the President has made—to ignore this body, to ignore the United States Senate, and, in fact, to ignore all of article 1 of the Constitution; and that is not just a Republican from the State of Georgia saying that, Mr. Speaker.

That is nine Supreme Court justices. Every single Supreme Court justice—the most liberal of the Supreme Court justices—said the President vastly overstepped his authority and his actions were unconstitutional.

Now, that is not news to anybody who has been following that case, Mr. Speaker. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals made that same decision and said that the President overstepped those bounds, and that was way back in 2012.

I have a quote here from President George Washington's farewell address in 1796, Mr. Speaker. George Washington said:

> It is important that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration.

That is us, Mr. Speaker. That is representatives in government. That is the White House, that is the courts, and that is the Congress.

> Should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another.

In his farewell address, George Washington said:

> In order for this country to succeed, these individual branches of government, the checks and balances created in the Constitution, the men and women entrusted with those responsibilities must resist encroaching on one another.

Against that backdrop, Mr. Speaker, against the backdrop of our Nation's first President and against the backdrop of—well, he is standing right out in a painting out here in the hallway, Mr. Speaker, George Washington presiding over the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787—this man entrusted with the birthing of our country, with the understanding of the consent of the governed and how we can preserve our freedoms while administering our governmental responsibilities said:

> Resist the opportunity to encroach on the powers of competing branches of government.

□ 1245

What I have on this sheet, and you can't see it, Mr. Speaker, but it is

quotes from President Barack Obama, and not quotes from 20 years ago and not quotes from 10 years ago, but quotes from just the 3 years that I have been serving here in this body, just the 3 years that I have been entrusted with some responsibilities. Here on article I the President says that, and this was at a speech at North Carolina State in January of this year, he said:

Where I can act on my own without Congress, I am going to do so.

The President says, if I can do it without these other branches of government, I am just going to do it. I am just going to do it. President Washington says avoid encroaching on one another. The Supreme Court says, Mr. President, when you step outside of your lane, 9–0 we are going to declare your actions unconstitutional. Those were actions taken back in 2012, Mr. Speaker. Even this year, the President continues down that path.

At the State of the Union Address this year, Mr. Speaker, the President said:

America does not stand still, and neither will I. So whenever I can take steps without legislation, that is what I am going to do.

There is no confusion at the White House, Mr. Speaker. It is not an accident at the White House. When the President made those recess appointments that today the Supreme Court said in a unanimous decision were entirely unconstitutional, he wasn't confused about what he was doing. He didn't misunderstand what the Constitution said. He wasn't confused about what state the Senate was in. He knew they were not in recess. He decided that he would define what recess was. He decided that he would do it anyway. He decided he did not care if he encroached on the Senate's lane, that article II came and trumped article I.

In the February, 2013, State of the Union Address, the President said:

I urge this Congress to get together and pursue a bipartisan, market-based solution to carbon change. But if Congress won't act soon to protect future generations, I will.

Climate change. I can't go into a high school in my district, Mr. Speaker, without young people wanting to talk to me about the environment, wanting to talk to me about climate change. This is an issue of national concern. This isn't just the President's concern; it is an issue of national concern, and obviously, international concern. But the President in his State of the Union Address doesn't say, I am going to take this concern and I am going to win the hearts and minds of the American people, and I am going to move legislation through Congress to enact my goals. He says, I hope Congress does what I want them to do; but if they don't, I am going to do it anyway. That is exactly what he said with his recess appointments, Mr. Speaker, which today the Supreme Court ruled 9–0 was an unconstitutional action by this White House.

Mr. Speaker, August of 2013, we were in the midst of the President proposing changes to ObamaCare. During that summer, he said in a normal political environment, it would have been easier for me to simply call the Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER, and say, You know what? This is a tweak that doesn't go to the essence of the law. It has nothing to do with—for example, where we are able to simplify the attestation of employers who are already providing health insurance, it looks like there might be some better ways to do this. Let's make a technical change.

The President says, ordinarily what I would do is I would call the Speaker of the House. Ordinarily, I would call the Congress and I would say, Hey, I have got this little bitty idea, this little bitty tweak that I would like to make. Would you all work with me on legislation to do so? That would be the normal thing, the President says, that I would prefer to do. But we are not in a normal atmosphere around here when it comes to ObamaCare. We have executive authority to do so, and we did so.

So here is what the President said: He said, I know what the right thing to do is. I know that what the Constitution requires is, if I have an idea, that I contact the Congress, that Congress moves that idea through, that I put my signature on it, and it becomes the law of the land. I know that is the ordinary course of events, but these are not ordinary times, so I am going to ignore those constitutional mandates and I am just going to do it myself.

He said that about the enforcement of ObamaCare. He said that about his actions on climate change. He said that about his appointments to the National Labor Relations Board. And the Supreme Court said, as did the district courts, that is unconstitutional; you can't do that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we all have an agenda we would like to pursue. I would like to believe we are all focused on the improvement of this country, we are all interested in opportunity for all American citizens. I would like to believe we are all interested in growing jobs and the economy and in protecting freedom. And the debate we have is about how to get to that place, and when the one branch of government, Mr. Speaker, decides they are going to ignore the others and do it their way, the entire system breaks down. The court today spoke directly to that.

Now, I want to contrast that, Mr. Speaker, because you might just think hey, Congressman WOODALL, you are a relatively new Member from the great State of Georgia, and you are just bitter because you are a Republican and there is a Democrat in the White House. Well, that is nonsense. That is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take you back to what previous Presidents have said. You have heard what this President has said, and that is not what previous Presidents have said. Bill Clinton, December 1994—and remember back, Mr. Speaker, December 1994. Republicans had just taken over the U.S. House for the first time in 60 years. For the first time in 60 years, we had a Republican majority in the House. President Clinton is only 2 years into his term, and he is looking at this brand new Congress, and he says, not if Congress doesn't do what I tell them to do, I am just going to roll over top of them; not if Congress doesn't do what I tell them, I am just going to do it my way; not I have a pen and I have a phone, but he says this:

I hope and believe we can cooperate with this new Congress.

He goes on, and he is talking about the same environmental issues that President Obama is talking about, and he says:

The most significant environmental gains in the last 30 years were made under a Democratic Congress and a Republican President, Richard Nixon. We can work together again.

And we did, Mr. Speaker: the biggest tax reform bill in my life time, 1997, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich; the biggest welfare reform bill in my lifetime, 1996, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich; biggest Medicare reforms in my lifetime, 1997, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich. That is what this country does, Mr. Speaker. We work together. We all have common goals, and we have different ways of getting there, but we work together.

Our Founders feared an all-powerful Executive, Mr. Speaker, who would roll over the Congress and roll over the will of the people; feared it, and set up the Constitution to prevent it. Other Presidents have understood that. Ronald Reagan, he wasn't working with a friendly Congress, he was working with a Congress of the other party, and he said this:

There were also pessimistic predictions about the relationship between our administration and this Congress. It was said that we could never work together. Well, those predictions were wrong. Together, we not only cut the increase in government spending nearly in half, we brought about the largest tax reductions and the most sweeping changes in our tax structure since the beginning of this century.

That was Ronald Reagan's State of the Union Address in 1982. He had been in office just over a year. And he worked with a Democratic Congress, a Republican President, and he did some of the most sweeping changes that this Nation has seen in the past century. That is what we do. That is who we are as a people.

President Kennedy, 1961:

The answers are by no means clear. All of us together, this administration, this Congress, this Nation, must forge those answers. Members of the Congress, the Constitution makes us not rivals for power but partners for progress.

I want you to hear the tone of those different statements. President John F. Kennedy to the Congress:

We are not rivals, but we are partners.

President Reagan to the Congress:

They said we could never work together, but they were wrong. We brought the most sweeping changes since the beginning of this century.

President Clinton:

The most sweeping changes in the last 30 years were made with Democrats in Congress, Republicans in the White House working together.

President Barack Obama:

If Congress doesn't do what I tell them to do, I am going to do it myself.

The Supreme Court today, a 9–0 decision: What President Obama is doing is unconstitutional. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, when folks are doing things that are unconstitutional, it threatens the very fabric of the freedoms that bind this country together.

Mr. Speaker, it just so happens that the Supreme Court ruled on yet another unconstitutional action of the White House today. I hadn't actually anticipated that decision happening today. I came down to talk about the President's new environmental initiative. He wants to reduce carbon emissions, CO_2 emissions, carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent. He announced this policy from the White House, and the media covered it expansively.

Here is Bloomberg:

President Obama's views addressing the problem of climate change as a key part of his legacy.

Reuters:

Climate change is becoming a major legacy issue for Obama.

USA Today:

Obama clearly hopes to make this an important part of his legacy.

These are all articles from the last 30 days, Mr. Speaker. The Chicago Tribune, the President's hometown newspaper:

Experts note this rule will spur the growth of the cap-and-trade marketplace in the States. In that sense, it may be remembered as a rare moment when Obama worked around the opposition in Congress to implement one of his top goals.

Politico:

If finalized next year and put into place, it would be one of Obama's largest legacy achievements.

The New York Times:

It would be the strongest action ever taken by an American President to tackle climate change, and become one of the defining elements of Mr. Obama's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, you may be asking, Congressman WOODALL, for Pete's sake, you are talking about this being a major legacy issue. From Reuters: An important part of the legacy. From USA Today: Remembered as a rare moment of success. From the Chicago Tribune and Politico: Largest legacy achievement in Obama's administration. So you may be asking, Mr. Speaker, so where is the legislation on Capitol Hill?

The largest legacy achievement in the Obama administration, and this is the administration that brought you ObamaCare, this is the administration that brought you a complete re-regulation of the financial services industry. This administration that brought you all of these sweeping changes, the media says this next proposed change may be the largest yet, and there is not a single piece of legislation moving across this body to implement it because the President says, even though this is the biggest initiative of his career, even though this is the biggest change ever proposed, he does not need the approval of Congress to do it. He is going to do it on his own.

Mr. Speaker, that is frightening. It is frightening. And the only way that he is allowed to do these things is if we can't work together in Congress to stop him. It seems to have become the pattern in my adult lifetime that Republican Congresses protect Republican Presidents and Democratic Congresses protect Democratic Presidents, instead of article I, protecting the powers of the people, while article II tries to implement those authorities.

Again, the President is not confused about what is happening here, Mr. Speaker. This is from the White House's Director of the Office of Science and Technology just last month, regarding a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions. He says:

Clearly the President regards this as part of his legacy to really turn the country around on climate change, and he aims to get that done.

I want you to think about this, again, Mr. Speaker. The biggest initiative of the President's administration, his Director of the Office of Science and Technology says that the President aims to get this done. It has been covered by every media outlet in America, and there is not one piece of legislation on this floor to implement that because the President believes that the right way to do it is without winning the hearts and minds of the people, without winning the hearts and minds of Congress, but just doing it and letting the chips fall where they may. He has tried that over and over and over again. It is a pattern in this administration, a pattern that the Supreme Court unanimously finds unconstitutional.

I want to take you to part of that Supreme Court decision, Mr. Speaker. From page 40 of that decision:

The recess appointments clause is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction, it simply provides a subsidiary method for approving officials when the Senate is away during a recess.

Here is another context:

Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.

Hear this, Mr. Speaker: the President has announced the largest environmental initiative of his agenda, arguably the largest initiative of his entire Presidency, and he says I don't care what Congress says, I am going to do it by myself. This in the same month when the Supreme Court unanimously says, Mr. President, friction? Friction is not only natural in Congress and the White House, it is anticipated by the Constitution. And no, you cannot use your phone and your pen to avoid friction. We must work together. We must come together on an idea. We cannot operate independently.

The recess appointments clause is not designed to overcome institutional friction. Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of shots I hear from this very same well where I gave a very similar speech almost 2 years ago where we talked about these very same issues as the President embarked on those original actions that led to this Noel Canning decision today. Mr. Speaker, those words went unheeded. Those words went unheeded.

The American people want to trust their President. The American people want to believe in their President. I want to trust my President. I want to believe in my President. But we cannot—we cannot—sacrifice constitutional principles in the name of expediency so that any one person can pursue their agenda. Working together has always been essential in the fabric of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years from now, we cannot wake up as we did 2 years from the day that I gave this speech, where we knew the Constitution was at risk, where we knew rather than winning the hearts and minds of the American people in the Congress the President just did it his own way, where we knew that there was a better pathway forward but so many in this Chamber said nothing. So many across the hall in the Capitol in the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker, said nothing. So many, in the name of supporting their party, were complicit in undermining their Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day that we can reset that clock. We are in the midst of a major policy initiative, this 30 percent reduction in carbon, that the President owes it to all of us to go out and win the hearts and minds of the people, win the commitment of Congress to make that the law of the land.

George Washington: avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The very fabric of the Constitution, the very fabric of the beginning of our country, Mr. Speaker, who we are as a people necessitates friction between the branches and cooperation to wield the people's power.

The President said he was doing the right thing for the right reasons 2½ years ago, Mr. Speaker, when he made those recess appointments. The appellate court of the United States of America said: You are doing the wrong things; they are unconstitutional. The President said: I don't believe you; take it to the Supreme Court. I have got friends there. The Supreme Court said, 9–0: You are violating the Constitution when you use your phone and your pen to get this work done instead of seeking the approval of Congress.

We can throw our hands up, Mr. Speaker, and say the ends justify the means. We can say it is just too hard to

work together; we might as well just do our own thing. George Washington cautioned us in his farewell address that that would be where human nature would lead us, but this is an institution that is full of conscientious men and women who took an oath to serve their constituency and to serve this Nation and to serve this Constitution.

We have an opportunity today, Mr. Speaker, not a partisan opportunity, not a House or Senate opportunity, but an opportunity given to us by the Supreme Court of the United States, to reset the clock on this relationship. For those of us who have always known these actions were unconstitutional, I confess it is a bit of a validation. For those who might have been defending this dictatorial action as something that was perhaps permitted in some small way under this Constitution, they now have the certainty that they need. Not a 5–4 majority, not a 4–4-1 plurality, but a 9–0 unanimous decision that if we are to move forward in this country, we are to move forward together, with article I, Congress passing the law, and article II, the White House enforcing the law.

We can do this, Mr. Speaker, and we owe it to the American people to do exactly that.

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

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) is recognized for 36 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and then submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, next week, on the Fourth of July, we celebrate our Nation's birthday. The Declaration of Independence, signed 238 years ago, laid the groundwork for the greatest Nation in history. The Founders, in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, created a novel system of government, one of the people, by the people, and for the people, that recognizes God-given unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Although the Declaration was written over two centuries ago, our Founders' sage words are just as relevant and just as important today, especially those who work in public service.

As a Pennsylvanian, I am proud that the Declaration was signed in Philadelphia. It is truly humbling to read these important words on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I thank my colleagues for joining me this afternoon:

In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the 13 United States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments.

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

I am privileged to be joined here with a colleague from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Congressman ANDY BARR, from Kentucky's Sixth District, who will continue with the recitation of the Declaration.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and to continue the reading of the Declaration of Independence:

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

I yield to my friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Joining me is my colleague from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who will continue with the recitation of the Declaration, Congressman SCOTT PERRY.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am on the House floor, privileged to continue with the recitation.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our

intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

□ 1315

Mr. ROTHFUS. Thank you, Congressman PERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their help in reviewing and reading the words of the Declaration of Independence, the words that birthed our Nation.

As families gather next week to celebrate our Nation's birthday, let us not forget these words, and let us not forget those who gave all for freedom, those in our military, especially those who are deployed today in harm's way.

May God bless and protect them, and may God bless and protect the United States of America.

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

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to direct attention to a robocall that was made on behalf of one of our Republican colleagues down the hall. I really hope that he had nothing to do with it because it was dishonest, reprehensible, played the race card, and attempted to divide people, and, in fact, apparently was conspiring to try to get people who were going to vote for the Democrat in November to vote for the Republican in the Republican primary runoff, which, under their State's law, is not lawful—not legal.

I certainly hope Senator COCHRAN had nothing to do with it, but it sounds like it helped him win his election. This is exactly the kind of thing that people in the House or the Senate should not be involved in, trying to mislead individual voters, trying to trick them into voting for themselves—because one thing is absolutely clear: if it requires trickery, deception, dishonesty, manipulation—unfair manipulation of people in another party to violate the law and vote for a particular candidate, then, very clearly, that candidate is not worthy of being elected to anything.

This past weekend, I was down on our border between the United States and Mexico along the Rio Grande Valley and along the Rio Grande River itself.

I had the impression, from the way some stories were written and some talk was going, that we actually had a situation on our border where people would come rushing across the Rio Grande River—even if there were law enforcement officers, Border Patrol officers—that it didn't matter. People were just rushing across, so anxious to get here.

Having spent the weekend on the border, what I learned was that, yes, people are very anxious to come into this country, but the coyotes that are bringing them—from what we learned apparently—paid by drug cartels to bring people across, those coyotes don't want to bring people across if they are going to get caught because one thing our Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety does very well is, if they catch a coyote transporting people illegally across our border, for example, in a raft—which is apparently the most frequently used method of getting larger numbers of people across—then they take the raft, and they destroy it—normally right there in front of the coyote—and help destroy his current illegal business.

The coyotes don't want to lose their rafts, their Jet Skis, or whatever they are using to get people illegally across the border, so they wait, even into the wee hours of the morning, which I was there to see firsthand. They don't want to be caught. They will wait until they feel like they have got time to get across and get back.

I have also heard plenty of times, from friends across the aisle, from people outside of Congress, who continue to say the same thing—and I know they don't mean to be dishonest, they are very honest people—but they keep saying they are trying to get away from the horrible murders, rapes, and terrible situations in their home countries.

The thing is, if you look at the crime rates in those countries from which they come—in Central America, for example—you don't see a tremendous dramatic rise in the amount of crime. There is not a dramatic increase in areas where so many of these people are coming from, to come illegally into the United States.

So the question keeps arising: Well, then if the murder rate is deplorable or horrible as the situation is, if the violence has not dramatically increased, then why has there been such a dramatic increase in the number of people coming across our border illegally?

The answer that this administration apparently refuses to acknowledge is that it is not because of a dramatic increase in violence in Central or South America, it is because the word has gone out in Central and South America that, if you can get to America, you will not be sent back.

In the wee hours Sunday night, Monday morning, there was one group of adult women—three adult women, some small children. These were very honest people. They spoke Spanish. They didn't speak any English.

Some say: well, I bet they are coming from Mexico, and they are being coached to say they are from El Salvador, Guatemala, South America, or other places.

These kids could not have been coached at their age to say what they did. They are very honest people.

When asked why did they come, the immediate answer was: well, we wanted these little children to get a good education.

Well, most everybody in the world—there are 6 to 7 billion people in the world—most want their children to get good educations; yet, if we have an influx of even 1 billion people into the United States, our country as we knew it will be gone.

It will no longer be a country where there is a rule of law, where capital investment feels safe, because you can't maintain a country unless you have the rule of law enforced. You can't just magically, one day, say: okay, now, today, we start enforcing the law as it is.

It doesn't work that way. If you have raised a generation or immigrated in a generation who believes that you just ignore the law when it is inconvenient, then you are not, all of a sudden, going to have a country that follows the law and attempts to enforce it across the board. It doesn't happen.

I have been told before that, gee, there may be a billion, billion and a half people in the world that would love to come to America. Well, when you have just over 300 million people in America and you are increasing the numbers here by giving out over a million visas a year—more than any other country in the world, even though you have India or China with several times more people than we have in America, nobody is giving out more visas than we are.

Even though you have a country like Mexico that condemns the United States for our treatment of people coming in even illegally—and even those legally—what they don't bother to notice in their massive hypocrisy is the way they treat people that legally or illegally come into Mexico.

If we began treating Mexican nationals coming in illegally into the United States the way Mexico treats American citizens, they would be screaming, going crazy every day; but it is because we are a more fair nation than Mexico is.

Of course, it doesn't really help Mexico when we have an administration, as this one, and a Justice Department, as the one run by Attorney General Eric Holder, which not only has an effort to get 2,000 or so weapons—guns—into the hands of criminals in Mexico with drug cartels, but then also engages in covering up evidence of exactly what happened during that horrible, horrible project by the Justice Department that actually put a couple thousand guns or so in the hands of criminals, resulting in deaths that would not have occurred otherwise, and yet, still, they cover it up.

Clearly, it is not, under Attorney General Eric Holder, a Department of Justice. It has become a department of, number one, injustice; and a department of, number two, just us.

Oh, sure, as long as the Internal Revenue Service is only going after conservative groups or Christian groups or religious groups, that is fine. As long as it is only going after groups that vote Republican, that is fine. It is okay.

Oh, and you want to try to catch us? Well, our hard drives crash, and our emails disappear, and, gee, we have no idea where they went. Why? Because we are in a country where the Department of Justice becomes a department of injustice and a department of just us, where as long as you support ''just us,'' you are good. Violate the law, it is fine; we will make sure you are not prosecuted—but it is perfectly fine to go after people who vote Republican, perfectly fine to go after groups that may not support the President's position on things.

Now, right down the hall, in the Senate of the United States, we actually have United States Senators who are wanting to destroy First Amendment freedom of speech rights.

There are United States Senators, all from the Democratic Party, those that are pushing this, that are actually pushing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow Congress to take away people's right to make speeches.

It is incredible that they don't even realize that, if the amendment to the Constitution—a bridge to take away freedom of speech rights, if it were to become part of the Constitution, and the American people got so mad at those Democrats pushing it that they gave the Republicans the majority in the House and the Senate and even gave them a veto-proof number, then you could actually have Republicans saying Hillary Clinton can't publish her book anymore.

I was just talking about this with my good friend, Senator TED CRUZ, and he was talking about some of the language that is being pushed in the Senate.

□ 1330

Senator CRUZ made the point that if this gets passed, you could have Congress—if there were enough Republicans in there—say that Hillary Clinton's book is illegal, it is contraband, and she can't do it anymore.

NBC and ''Saturday Night Live'' like to do satire about political officials, and some of them are pretty funny. But, actually, under the amendment that we have United States Senators of the Democratic Party pushing, Congress could actually tell NBC, the National Broadcasting Company, that they can't do political satire anymore.

Why would senators who like our Constitution think it was a good idea to take away free speech rights? I think they don't mean harm. They don't mean to harm our Republic.

It is because we have now gotten into an environment here in Washington, D.C., where the IRS can go after people they disagree with politically. And heaven help some candidate or some Republican that stands up and says, We have got to eliminate the IRS, because you can pretty well count on them coming right after him or her. If you say those kind of things, the IRS is about self-preservation. They will come after you if you say negative things about them. Because, like the Justice Department, it is ''just us.''

We have got to protect ourselves.

So it is serious business. The environment is such here in Washington where some Democratic Senators have actually come to the idea that it would really be nice if we take away freedom of speech rights and give Congress the ability to say, You can't publish that book. You can't do that political satire on TV. No, you can't do that film because we don't like it.

These are people that are supposed to be enlightened and be against censorship, and yet they are pushing an amendment that will allow Congress to basically go back to Orwellian ideas or all of those that have been written about in history when Big Brother gets so big, have book burnings. It seemed like that happened in the 1930s and 1940s.

It has become dangerous here in Washington, where you have educated people that haven't thought through their constitutional amendment they have signed onto enough to realize just how dangerous it is to the idea of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

They have bought in to a Justice Department that is ''just us,'' a Senate that is ''just us,'' an administration that says, Hey, if Congress doesn't do what we want them to, forget Congress. I will write my own laws and we will just ignore Congress.

That is a dangerous concept if we are going to continue what the Founders referred to as ''this little experiment in democracy.'' It is a dangerous time.

And then we have questions that were asked by PETE KING of Secretary Johnson about what is going on at the border. He is asking:

If you're a parent in Central America, in effect, this can look like a free pass because you're making the situation more humanitarian, you're making more facilities available, as Mr. Fugate said, you're providing foster families, all of which is understandable. That's our obligation as human beings.

But on the other hand, if you're a family in Guatemala or El Salvador, this, in a way, is a free pass.

Well, Secretary Johnson ends up saying:

Well, a couple of things. First, I'm convinced that the principle reason these kids—from everything I've heard, everything I've seen, and from my own conversation with these kids, the principle reason they're leaving is the push factor from the country they're leaving.

This is Secretary Johnson with Homeland Security saying this.

He says:

The conditions in Honduras, for example, are horrible. It's the murder capital of the world. There is this disinformation out there that this is permisos. That's what we're hearing. Permisos, free pass, like you get a piece of paper that says, Welcome to the United States. You're free.

''That's not the case. When you're apprehended at the border''—he says ''irregardless of age.'' My late mother, an English teacher, would have jumped on that and pointed out for Secretary Johnson that irregardless is not an appropriate word. It is either regardless or it is not.

Anyway, our Secretary didn't have an English teacher for a mother. It is a common mistake.

He says:

Irregardless of age, you're a priority for removal. So they're given a notice to appear in a deportation proceeding.

The way the law works, the 2008 law, we are required to give that child to HHS, and HHS is required to act in the best interest of the child, which most often means placing that child with a parent who is here in the United States. But there is a pending deportation proceeding against that child.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, parenthetically, he references the 2008 law which requires the Department of Homeland Security to give the child or children to Health and Human Services.

We were in a hearing yesterday where I was told I was wrong about that. I was just quoting Secretary Johnson in my comments, as well as other people in this administration, who said, Look, we don't have a choice because the law from 2008 requires us to immediately provide the children to HHS.

Anyway, Mr. KING comes back and says:

But if I were a parent in Guatemala, wouldn't I see that as being a free pass? I mean a child, a 5-year-old child getting an order to show up in immigration court, you know, are you going to actually deport that child?

To me, it's a free pass, from their perspective.

Then, these astounding words from Secretary Johnson. He says:

Congressman, I don't see it as a free pass, particularly given the danger of migrating over a thousand miles through Mexico into the United States, especially now in the months of July and August that we're facing. A lot of these kids stow away on top of freight trains, which is exceedingly dangerous.

I spoke to one kid who was about 12 or 13 who spent days climbing on top of a freight train, a box car, and these kids sometimes they fall off because they fall asleep. They can't hold on any longer. It is exceedingly dangerous.

Well, Secretary Johnson is saying that because it is dangerous to come through Mexico, then it is not a free pass that he is handing out to people when they get to America.

Having been on the border in the wee hours, let me tell you, to those little children, to the adults bringing them, it is a free pass. That is why they came. And this is open territory. Anybody can be standing there. Because

once these the coyotes get them across the river, then they go looking for somebody to turn themselves in to.

I was there when there were different groups being processed out there in the open air; daytime, nighttime. So they are asking them questions, as their job requires, such as, Where are you from? You have got to get their names. They don't have any identification on them. They are strictly taking their names as they give it to them.

One adult woman who had a couple of little girls with her said, Well, I'm not the mother, but I'm the cousin of the mother. Well, where's the mother? She's got a good job in Miami.

She came in illegally some time back and she has been working in Miami. So since they can now come and stay here, this was the time to start bringing the kids in.

The other two women were mothers of the other children there and they were explaining that the fathers of those children were working. They had good jobs in North Carolina. And since all they had to do was get into the United States and Homeland Security or Health and Human Services would transport them—our government is now becoming human traffickers—they have become the human traffickers and take them to North Carolina, where the fathers have good jobs working illegally over there. But, again, since they saw it as a free pass, then this is the time to try to hurry into the United States.

What was particularly telling, Mr. Speaker—I don't have it with me here on the floor today—is that there was a request, a solicitation from the Obama administration back at the end of January that actually says that we anticipate in the next short months that we may have 65,000 children come across our border.

Now why would they think that? Because there were only a fraction of that many the year before, and then a fraction of that many the year before that. So why would they think all of a sudden there are going to be over 60,000 children coming in in the months ahead?

Well, they knew. The word is out in Central America and South America that if you just get to this country, the Obama administration is giving you a free pass.

The women in the last group that the Border Patrol were talking to out there after they had turned themselves in, they had not heard the word ''permisos,'' but they knew they got a free pass. They knew they got to stay. And they said, We're here because we want these children to get a good education.

And since we know they can stay—in effect, that is what they are saying—now is the time they come and get a good education.

Well, we want everybody to get a good education. Unfortunately, if we in this country take tax dollars from Americans who are working and tried to pay for the education of every single child in the entire world—which I would love to do—but if we do that, it bankrupts this country and no child gets any kind of education.

It is a dangerous time. It is a dangerous situation for these children to be coming across our border. In those areas the bush is thick, the river is swift. It is deep there where so many of them were crossing.

And yet because this administration has the word out and it is being sent out by drug cartels—being advertised, is what we keep hearing—the drug cartels have the best of all business worlds. They actually will charge $5,000. One lady got a real deal. She got two kids and herself for $5,000. For others, it is generally $5,000 a person. For some, it is $8,000.

The drug cartels charge people to bring them up across Mexico into United States. And if they find an attractive girl, they may pull her off into sex slavery and make money off of her. Having three daughters myself, that idea is just abominable.

Then, because of the masses of people that are coming across in greater and greater numbers, we have Border Patrol and ICE that are pulled away from their regular jobs. They are not out there looking for the drugs.

So you have got drug cartels making money by charging people to bring them into America, and then that causes a problem for us to enforce our border against drugs, and they can get more drugs in.

There is a war against the United States being staged by the drug cartels, and this administration better wake up and better start doing its job. I know my friends here on the Republican side, if the administration will start enforcing the law and enforcing our border and protecting us from the massive amount of drugs that are coming in, and enforce the border, we will get an immigration reform bill done so fast, people will be amazed how quickly we get it done.

□ 1345

There is no sense at all doing an immigration reform bill right now when the President is ignoring the enforcement of the law the way it is. The President needs to enforce the law as it is. Once he does that, then we can talk about amending it.

In the meantime, very quickly here, I had a quote from the President on June 11. He was saying:

> I mean, the truth of the matter is, that for all the challenges we face and for all the problems we have, if you had to choose a moment to be born in human history, not knowing what your position was going to be or who you were going to be, you would choose this time. The world is less violent than it has ever been. It is healthier than it has ever been. It is more tolerant than it has ever been. It is better than it has ever been. It is more educated than it has ever been.

Then I thought about this cartoon, Mr. Speaker, and I will finish with this. In effect, we borrowed the cartoon here, but it is like the President has gone off a cliff, and all of the way down, he is able to say, ''We are doing all right so far.''

The day is coming when the country will not do all right—when there will be a crash—because we failed to recognize the dangers on the way down.

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

HOWARD BAKER, A LIFE WELL LIVED

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I have unfortunate news. We have lost a great American and a great Tennesseean, Senator Howard Baker, Jr.

Senator Baker passed away today. Howard Baker served this country well, and he served it in a fashion that was worthy of admiration from both parties and all people because he was an American first, a Tennesseean second, and a Republican third.

He served three terms in the United States Senate. He served as majority leader and minority leader. He served as the United States Ambassador to Japan, and he served as Chief of Staff to President Ronald Reagan. He was a private practicing attorney as well, at the firm Baker Donelson, which was a firm his grandfather started, and he practiced law at one time with his father, who served in this House as a United States Representative from Tennessee.

Howard Baker had been recognized since his retirement from the Senate on many occasions. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and had received other awards.

His was a life well lived and a life to be demonstrated to others as a role for legislators to work with both sides of the aisle and to work for America first. A life well lived, Howard Baker.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't intend to take that much time, but in a few short minutes, we are going to break for the July Fourth recess, and I just wanted to come forward on behalf of the veterans of the United States and make the commitment to them that the House and the Senate are going to continue to work to resolve the issues that we have heard so much about.

I would like to share, if I could, before we go, two stories from veterans of their wait times and neglect that my office has worked to try to help resolve.

I am hopeful, when we come back, we are able to get to a resolution for these

men and women who fought for and died for this country, so that we can have that July Fourth Independence Day.

The following stories come from my district. They are stories that we have worked on in our office. They haven't made national headlines, but they are very similar to others that have made national headlines.

The first is of the gentleman, Mr. Michael Whitley, from Ocilla. He was a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran with cancer. He was unable to receive that cancer treatment at the VA medical center where he received his primary care, so he had to travel about three-and-a-half hours to a different facility, even though there was an outstanding cancer treatment facility just 30 minutes away from his home.

As his condition worsened and as it became more difficult for him to travel, Mr. Whitley's primary care facility promised to approve fee-based treatment, which would be closer to home. Unfortunately, Mr. Whitley died before this care that was closer to home was approved.

The second story comes from a 12-page letter—a very heart-wrenching letter—of a 3-year-long case that our office has been working on to resolve. It is of Mr. Willis McCarty, from Moultrie, Georgia.

He visited his VA primary care provider in February of 2009 for an aortic abdominal aneurysm. His doctor found that the aneurysm measured 7.8 centimeters, requiring immediate surgery. To quote Mr. McCarty, ''He told me I was a walking time bomb and that I needed immediate surgery.''

Mr. McCarty was referred for a surgery consultation at another VA facility, and he went to the appointment under the impression that he would be admitted for that surgery.

The vascular surgeon, instead, sent him home and rescheduled the surgery for a later date. Mr. McCarty writes that the doctor said, ''We do not see any immediate danger. We think your doctor overreacted, and we are going to send you home for 10 days.''

Upon returning home, the aneurysm ruptured. Mr. McCarty was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery, where he remained hospitalized for 2 months due to complications.

To quote Mr. McCarty, ''Before they took me into surgery, they had to use the paddles on me two times. My heart stopped for over 2 minutes. While in surgery, a ventilator was placed down into my lungs to breathe for me. I was in surgery for 6 hours. After the surgery was completed and I was rolled into the ICU, the surgeon told the nurses, 'This is a miracle boy, and I want to keep it that way.' I was in ICU for about 3 weeks with the ventilator in my lungs the entire time. While in ICU, one of my lungs collapsed, and I developed pneumonia. I was going through hell and didn't even know I was in this world. I was in the hospital about 6 weeks.''

After his stay, Mr. McCarty received a phone call from the chief of staff at the hospital and from a VA representative, apologizing and admitting guilt on behalf of the VA, assuring him his expenses would be paid and that ''the doctor should have never sent me back home.''

They advised him to file a tort claim, and they even mailed him the forms to use in filing the claim.

Mr. McCarty writes, ''Just the hospital bill was about $125,000. That is not including the bill from the two surgeons, pathology, x-ray, et cetera.''

Mr. McCarty has been paying these bills out of pocket, monthly, since 2009, for 5 years. The VA continues to deny his claims, and to this date, the VA has paid nothing. They also continue to deny Mr. McCarty's disability claims, and Mr. McCarty's appeal process will likely take another 3 years. Mr. McCarty is 77.

In his letter, Mr. McCarty writes, ''I feel like the VA is giving me the runaround,'' and ''I served my country. I've done my duty and was proud and honored to do it.''

In return for Mr. McCarty's 8 years of service, he has spent 5 years dealing with this medical trauma and now expects to spend another 3 years in appeals. Every month, he pays the surgeons and the hospital for a surgery and complications that the VA is responsible for.

Mr. Speaker, most of the time, when we are working with these veterans, they ask us to fix this for one simple reason: fix it so the next soldier doesn't have to go through this—not for me—but so that the next soldier doesn't have to go through this.

We need to resolve these issues for our veterans, and we need to resolve them now. They deserve better.

I want to thank our House VA Committee, under the leadership of Chairman JEFF MILLER, as well as the Democrats and the Republicans on that committee, for the work they have done and are doing to make that system better.

Before we break for the July Fourth Independence Day holiday, I want to make the commitment on behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives that, while we will be gone from Washington for a week, we will continue to work on these issues in order to help resolve them for our veterans.

I wish each and every one of you a happy Independence Day. Whether you fly the flag in your yard or wear the patch on your shoulder or just keep it in your heart, thank you, and God bless America.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Robert B. Aderholt, Rodney Alexander*, Justin Amash, Mark E. Amodei, Robert E. Andrews*, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Ron Barber, Lou Barletta, Garland ''Andy'' Barr, John Barrow, Joe Barton, Karen Bass, Joyce Beatty, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Kerry L. Bentivolio, Ami Bera, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Suzanne Bonamici, Jo Bonner*, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Jim Bridenstine, Mo Brooks, Susan W. Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Julia Brownley, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Michael C. Burgess, Cheri Bustos, G. K. Butterfield, Bradley Byrne, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Tony Cárdenas, John C. Carney, Jr., André Carson, John R. Carter, Matt Cartwright, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Joaquin Castro, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine M. Clark, Yvette D. Clarke, Curt Clawson, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, Chris Collins, Doug Collins, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Paul Cook, Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Tom Cotton, Joe Courtney, Kevin Cramer, Eric A. ''Rick'' Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Steve Daines, Danny K. Davis, Rodney Davis, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, John K. Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan K. DelBene, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Ron DeSantis, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Michael F. Doyle, Tammy Duckworth, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson*, Eliot L. Engel, William L. Enyart, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Charles J. ''Chuck'' Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Bill Foster, Virginia Foxx, Lois Frankel, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, Pete P. Gallego, John Garamendi, Joe Garcia, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Alan Grayson, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Janice Hahn, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Denny Heck, Joseph J. Heck, Jeb Hensarling, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, George Holding, Rush Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steven A. Horsford, Steny H. Hoyer, Richard Hudson, Tim Huelskamp, Jared Huffman, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa,

Sheila Jackson Lee, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, David W. Jolly, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, David P. Joyce, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Robin L. Kelly, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Daniel T. Kildee, Derek Kilmer, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Ann Kirkpatrick, John Kline, Ann M. Kuster, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug LaMalfa, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Alan S. Lowenthal, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Luján, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Stephen F. Lynch, Daniel B. Maffei, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean Patrick Maloney, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey*, Thomas Massie, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Vance M. McAllister, Carolyn McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Mark Meadows, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Luke Messer, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Markwayne Mullin, Mick Mulvaney, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murphy, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Richard M. Nolan, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard B. Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, Beto O'Rourke, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Ed Perlmutter, Scott Perry, Gary C. Peters, Scott H. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Robert Pittenger, Joseph R. Pitts, Mark Pocan, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Mike Quigley, Trey Radel*, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Reid J. Ribble, Tom Rice, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Peter J. Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Dennis A. Ross, Keith J. Rothfus, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Raul Ruiz, Jon Runyan, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Matt Salmon, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, Mark Sanford, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Bradley S. Schneider, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Carol Shea-Porter, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Kyrsten Sinema, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Jason T. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland II, Jackie Speier, Chris Stewart, Steve Stivers, Steve Stockman, Marlin A. Stutzman, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takano, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott R. Tipton, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Fred Upton, David G. Valadao, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc A. Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Ann Wagner, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Jackie Walorski, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt*, Henry A. Waxman, Randy K. Weber, Sr., Daniel Webster, Peter Welch, Brad R. Wenstrup, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Roger Williams, Frederica S. Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, Ted S. Yoho, C. W. Bill Young*, Don Young, Todd C. Young.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6170. A letter from the USDA/FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Continuation of Certain Benefit and Loan Programs, Acreage Reporting, Average Adjusted Gross Income, and Payment Limit received June 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6171. A letter from the Management Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Scales; Accurate Weights, Repairs, Adjustments or Replacements After Inspection received June 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6172. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Tier 1/Tier 2 Framework (RIN: 3052-AC81) received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6173. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the Army's priorities and requirements of its network modernization plans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6174. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report identifying, for each of the Armed Forces (other than the Coast Guard) and each Defense Agency, the percentage of funds that were expended during the preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair workloads by the public and private sectors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6175. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6176. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed position in the Army's 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6177. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer Among Members of the Armed Forces Serving on Active Duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6178. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Definition of ''Congressional Defense Committees'' (DFARS Case 2013-D027) (RIN: 0750-AI23) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6179. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Private Sector Notification Requirements of In-Sourcing Actions (DFARS Case 2012-D036) (RIN: 0750-AI05) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6180. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers [ED-2014-OSERS-0025] [CFDA Number: 84.133E-5.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6181. A letter from the Program Analyst, Financial Operations, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules (GEN Docket No.: 86-285) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6182. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [WC Docket No.: 05-337] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6183. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the February 15, 2014–April 15, 2014 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6184. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 07-14 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Kingdom of the Netherlands and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6185. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of further measure in response to the situation in Iraq; (H. Doc. No. 113-125); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6186. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-354, ''Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6187. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-355, ''Educator Evaluation Data Collection Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6188. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transmittal of

D.C. Act 20-356, ''Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2014'', pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6189. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-357, ''Special Event Waste Diversion Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6190. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6191. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending March 31, 2014 and the OIG's Compendium of Unimplemented Recommendations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6192. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Department of Commerce, transmitting the 2013 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6193. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a piece of draft legislation entitled, ''Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments of 2014''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6194. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on compliance within the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6195. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bush River, Perryman, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0972] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6196. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0095] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6197. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6198. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0111] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6199. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 52nd annual report of activities for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6200. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Alternative Simplified Credit Election [TD 9666] (RIN: 1545-BL79] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6201. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Requirements for Taxpayers Filing Form 5472 [TD 9667] (RIN: 1545-BK00) received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6202. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Mid-Year Amendments to Safe Harbor Plans Pursuant to Notice 2014-19 with Respect to the Windsor Decision [Notice 2014-37] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6203. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a report on the actuarial status of the railroad retirement system, including any recommendations for financing changes, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f-1; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

6204. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's 2014 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 369; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and 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. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2807. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions; with an amendment (Rept. 113–494). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3134. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable contributions made by an individual after the close of the taxable year, but before the tax return due date, to be treated as made in such taxable year; with an amendment (Rept. 113–495). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4619. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–496). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4691. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations; with an amendment (Rept. 113–497). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; with an amendment (Rept. 113–498). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HURT (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 4976. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to minimize infringement on the exercise and enjoyment of property rights in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4977. A bill to establish a commission to examine the evidence-based therapy treatment model used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for treating mental illnesses of veterans and the potential benefits of incorporating complimentary alternative treatments available in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities within the community; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. ELLMERS (for herself, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 4978. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require bottled water manufacturers and distributors to disclose bottled water quality information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H.R. 4979. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 4980. A bill to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. WILSON of

Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4981. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 4982. A bill to simplify the application used for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility for postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 4983. A bill to simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 4984. A bill to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 4985. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations and to transfer the resulting revenues to the Highway Trust Fund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4986. A bill to amend certain banking statutes in response to Operation Choke Point; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4987. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4988. A bill to amend the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906 to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 4989. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of any treatment or research in which a ward of the State is subjected to greater than minimal risk to the individual's health with no or minimal prospect of direct benefit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4990. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional immigration judges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4991. A bill to redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 4992. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the adequacy of motor vehicle refueling assistance to individuals with disabilities, to promulgate regulations in accordance with the results of such study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 4993. A bill to clarify the effect of State statutes of repose on the required commencement date for actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. TIBERI, and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 4994. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 4995. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the ''Marilyn Monroe Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4996. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 4997. A bill to provide assistance to sub-Saharan Africa to combat obstetric fistula; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4998. A bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BASS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 4999. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and expand the membership of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include veterans who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual and veterans who are transgender; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MENG, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CHU, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BASS, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 5000. A bill to provide for child care services for families with infants or toddlers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5001. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the credit for nonbusiness energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 5003. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5004. A bill to improve the energy efficiency of multifamily housing in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. BASS, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5005. A bill to end the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5006. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5007. A bill to assess staffing shortages at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5008. A bill to prohibit United States voluntary contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5009. A bill to require the payment of the full amount of separation pay otherwise due to former members of the Armed Forces who were separated under the former Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy of the Department of Defense and were only paid a portion of the full amount; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5010. A bill to provide greater clarity in the regulation of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including electronic cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, and hookahs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5011. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit authorized committees of candidates for election for Federal office and leadership PACs from employing immediate family members of the candidates, to amend such Act to limit the rate of interest an authorized committee of a candidate may pay on loans made to the committee by the candidate, to amend such Act to apply the prohibition against the conversion of contributions to personal use to contributions to political committees, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require registered lobbyists to identify relatives who are covered officials and disclose lobbying contacts with relatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 5012. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. PETRI, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. ELLMERS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H. Res. 651. A resolution expressing support for the network of experienced and accredited wildlife rehabilitation centers across the United States and honoring their important work in protecting native wildlife; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HALL, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H. Res. 652. A resolution condemning the President of the United States and the executive branch of government for continuous actions that violates the laws and Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NADLER:

H. Res. 653. A resolution recognizing the 45th anniversary of Stonewall; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HURT:

H.R. 4976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause XII–XIV of the Constitution of the United States, which gives Congress the authority to:

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 4978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 4979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 4980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution;

(2) to make all laws necessary and proper for executing powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 4982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 4983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 4985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress the ability to make laws necessary to carry out that power. Additionally, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9 grants Congress authority over federal courts and therefore implicitly allows Congress to require Judicial Branch review of Executive Branch actions. Finally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 10

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND:

H.R. 4988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

SUCH AS

Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill. 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 Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 4989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress

Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Commerce Clause

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 4994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4995.

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 Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4996.

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. DELAURO:

H.R. 4997.

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. DELAURO:

H.R. 4998.

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. 4999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 5000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Constitution of the United States of America

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 5002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 5003.

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 and 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 Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 5005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 223: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 318: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 411: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 515: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 543: Mr. MARINO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 610: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 689: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 787: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 988: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1015: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1020: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1136: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1146: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1331: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 1354: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1466: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 1507: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1553: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 1750: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1830: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1835: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2064: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2170: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2450: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2453: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2500: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 2529: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2536: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 2607: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 2647: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2737: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2807: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2959: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2981: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3054: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3077: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3116: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3367: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 3383: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3543: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3566: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3698: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 3775: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 3852: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 3856: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 3899: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 3929: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 4012: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 4041: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 4060: Mr. HALL and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 4119: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4136: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4188: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4227: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 4257: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 4418: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4432: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 4450: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 4462: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4466: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 4489: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4504: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4507: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4510: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4526: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4577: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4578: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BASS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4579: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4589: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4619: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4625: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4626: Mr. BARR, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4653: Mr. FORBES and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4678: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4680: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4690: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4703: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4792: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. NUNES, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 4798: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4813: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4843: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4864: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4871: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROSS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HALL, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4874: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 4878: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4888: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4904: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4930: Mr. ROSS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 4936: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4948: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 4950: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4957: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4959: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4964: Mr. ENYART and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4965: Mr. GARCIA.
H.J. Res. 41: Mr. POMPEO.
H. Res. 190: Mr. AMODEI.
H. Res. 231: Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 254: Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 281: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HALL, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 456: Mr. HARPER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. RUNYAN.
H. Res. 570: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 588: Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 607: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 621: Mr. LANKFORD.
H. Res. 626: Mr. LEVIN.
H. Res. 633: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 644: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HURT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COOK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SALMON, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PERRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 650: Mr. PETERSON.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014 *No. 101*

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of night and day to whose will all the stars are obedient, we submit to Your sovereignty and might. Remind our lawmakers that You are often closest to us when we feel far from You. Give our Senators confidence in the triumph of Your eternal purposes. May they strive each day to do something that will strengthen their hold upon the world unseen. Impart to them the wisdom to release Earth's fleeting things, as they seek to conform to the life of the world to come.

And, Lord, please bless our faithful Senate pages who will be leaving us soon.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan Sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order with respect to the Krause nomination be modified so that the Senate will proceed to executive session at 11:45 a.m. and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Krause nomination, with all previous provisions remaining in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. At 11:45 a.m., the Senate will vote on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause to be U.S. circuit judge, and that will be a cloture vote. She has been nominated by the President for the Third Circuit.

At 1:45 p.m., we will confirm several additional nominations, but we expect to have only one rollcall vote at that time.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3301, I am told, is due for a second reading; is that true?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any other proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the late comedian Leslie Nielsen said: ''Doing nothing is very hard to do . . . you never know when you're finished.'' Perhaps that is the case with the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. They just don't know when to finish doing nothing on immigration reform.

Today marks the 365th day that the tea party-driven House of Representatives has sat on their hands refusing to fix our broken immigration system. The Senate was able to pass immigration reform 52 weeks ago because both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate understood the urgent need to amend our Nation's immigration laws. Yet for 12 months—52 weeks—radical Republicans in the House have refused to address the real issues affecting the

American immigration system. Instead of obsessing over the President's deportation policies, they should pass this legislation. They have made it clear they will not act on immigration reform until they can trust the President—whatever that means—to enforce the law.

The bill that passed the Senate 52 weeks ago has the most stringent border security measures in the history of the world. What we have agreed to do with the border is unbelievable. So any complaint about border security is just not well taken.

It appears to me the Republicans want more deportations and more families torn apart. Do they also want more debt? Immigration reform will reduce the debt by $1 trillion. Is the immigration platform by the extremists in the Republican Party to deport first and find solutions later or never? I guess that is what it is.

Recently, Republican Congressman DARRELL ISSA circulated a letter demanding that President Obama end a program that prevents young people with longstanding ties to America from being deported. He offers no plan to solve our Nation's immigration quandary or to keep families together—just more deportations.

There is not anyone who believes this country can fiscally or physically deport 11 million people. The bill Congress passed many years ago in 1985—I guess is when it was—didn't work. It allowed people to come here without proper documentation. We tried a program, and it simply hasn't worked—employer sanctions. It doesn't matter how we got to where we are; we have to change things. We must have comprehensive immigration reform. Again, Congressman ISSA offers no plan to solve our Nation's immigration quandary or keep families together—just more deportations. They are running out of excuses. Congressman ISSA and Republicans have gone so far as to turn a humanitarian crisis at our Nation's southern border into a political game.

The people coming from Central America to America are trying to escape a war-torn and poverty-ridden country. Yesterday, the Republicans reached a new low by accusing these kids—some of them 3 years old—of lying about the reason they have come to the United States. They are fleeing violence, extreme poverty, and they are coming because they are scared. They are afraid. These children are vulnerable and need to be reunited with their parents, and that is what we are trying to do.

Our Nation cannot deport our way out of this problem. Immigration reform is about families, and we are not the Republican-dominated House of Representatives. We, as a nation, value families and see the family structure as a cornerstone of our communities.

Undocumented immigrants, regardless of how they got here and why they lack the proper documentation, are our neighbors and our classmates. As I have just explained, there are 11 million people, and they play a crucial part in our economy and the communities where they live. I don't know why the House Republicans don't realize that. If they did, they would be working to fix our immigration system.

Waiting 52 weeks? They have done nothing for 365 days. They claim to be working on jobs bills and legislation to reduce the debt. If that is the case, why don't they do something about raising the minimum wage? Why don't they do something about extended unemployment benefits? Why don't they do something about making it so my daughter, my wife, and daughters and wives and mothers all over America get paid for doing the same work men do? That would be good for the economy. How about student debt. Why don't they do something about the debt students have—$1.3 trillion.

Yesterday or the day before Senator DURBIN spoke about a company that went bankrupt. They have one school in Nevada. It is a for-profit school that has been ripping off young men and women—some not so young—for years. Senator DURBIN said more than 90 percent of all the income that institution got came from Federal loans, and the default rate is extremely high. Why don't we do something about student debt?

The fact is the Senate-passed immigration bill reduces the deficit and spurs the economy more than all the House bills currently awaiting Senate action combined.

I urge my Republican friends and the Republican leadership in the House to stop doing nothing and bring immigration reform to a vote.

As the comedian said: ''Doing nothing is very hard to do . . . you never know when you're finished.'' Maybe that is the problem with them. Perhaps now is the time for newly appointed House majority leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, who comes from Bakersfield, in the State of California, where comprehensive immigration reform is certainly necessary, to take a position on immigration reform. Will he bring the Senate-passed bill to a vote? If not, what does he propose?

Republicans in the House have a choice of allowing a vote on commonsense immigration reform in July or certainly be the ones to blame for not doing it. There is certainly a lot of blame to go around, and it is all focused in one direction.

The Republicans in the House have wasted enough time already. Bring this legislation before the House for a vote. It would pass overwhelmingly. I would bet we could get a majority of the Republican votes, and of course it would get 90 percent of the Democratic votes over there. It has enough bipartisan support to pass. So let it come up for consideration. This is a democracy. Let them have a vote. Americans want us to fix this Nation's broken immigration system. So let's do it and do it now.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MIDDLE-CLASS JOBS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yesterday I talked about how supposedly moderate Senate Democrats are supposedly incapable of advancing important policies they claim to support, policies such as approving the Keystone Pipeline. These Senate Democrats just can't stop talking about how much they love Keystone. Yet they will not stop enabling their own Democratic leadership to block approval of this shovel-ready, job-creation project. They have been doing so for years now. So it is hard to take what they say very seriously.

That is true when it comes to the Obama administration's war on coal jobs too. Some of our friends on the other side want their constituents to think they will stand up to this elitist war on middle-class jobs. These Senators want everyone to believe they are opposed to this administration's waves of job-killing energy regulations.

The truth is it is just the opposite. These Democratic Senators say they are ready to stand and fight, but when push comes to shove we can't find them anywhere. Instead, we continually see them supporting the majority leader and the Democratic Senate leadership that dutifully does the bidding of President Obama and the far left.

On this issue the Democratic leadership has gotten ever more extreme in its defense of the war-on-coal jobs. Multiple times I have tried to offer legislation that would ease the pain for Kentucky's coal families—hard-working Americans who just want to work and put food on the table.

I pushed for Senate approval of commonsense bills, such as the Saving Coal Jobs Act and the Coal Country Protection Act, but the majority leader blocks those efforts at every turn, and none of the so-called moderate Senate Democrats ever come to the floor to assist me in my efforts. Every time they choose to follow a party line instead—the party line of the majority leader they support.

The most troubling is the majority leader whom these Democrats support is so determined to stamp out opposition to the President's job-killing regulations he has taken to shutting down the legislative process altogether. His efforts have even begun to affect our committee work.

Case in point. Just last week Senate Democratic leadership pulled the Energy and Water appropriations bill from committee consideration because it feared a procoal jobs amendment I wanted to offer that might actually pass. We saw yet another example of that this week when Senate Democrats pulled the Financial Services appropriations bill from committee consideration for the same reason. The Senate Democratic leadership apparently doesn't want Members of the Senate, even in committee—even in committee—to have any real say in the

contours of the President's energy regulations—regulations that will affect millions of our constituents in profound ways.

Appropriations bills are exactly what the Senate should be voting on. Our constituents sent us here to debate big issues, to amend and improve policies that work, and to repeal the ones that don't. That is our job description. But the Democratic majority won't allow us to fulfill it.

The extremism here is really worrying. But the majority leader couldn't get away with it if the Democrats in his conference who claim to be ''moderate'' would actually stand up to him for once. The so-called moderates could stand up to him when he tries to shut down the legislative process, but they don't. The so-called moderates could stand up to him when he blocks every reform of the President's job-killing regulations or when he blocks every effort to approve the Keystone Pipeline, but they don't. They won't even stand up to President Obama when he jets off to speak to partisan groups and friendly audiences that rarely have the best interests of coal country at heart.

I know the President will also be trying out a new PR campaign today to see what life is really like for the middle class—for those beyond the White House gates. But he won't see the consequences of his EPA regulations at a political rally. He won't see what his IRS has done to grassroots organizations. He won't hear from the families of veterans who died while waiting for a bureaucrat to hand out a doctor appointment. And he won't see the damage ObamaCare has caused for working families.

Well, if he is actually serious about this initiative, then he will come to Kentucky to see the tragic effects of his policies firsthand. I invite him to visit with local coal families in my State and hear the other side of the story they won't hear from California billionaires. I invite him to meet with the veterans I hear from every day, and I invite him to meet with families such as the Whitehead family from Allen County, who write to me about the damage his ObamaCare law has already done to them. But I doubt he will, and I doubt the so-called moderate Senators will push him to do so anyway.

So perhaps it is time these Senators stop referring to themselves as moderate at all. If they are not willing to stand up to the majority leader or the President when it counts, then they are just another party-line Democrat. It is really too bad, because we Republicans on this side of the aisle want to come to bipartisan solutions on the issues affecting so many of our constituents. We want to pass commonsense energy legislation that can create well-paying jobs, increase North American energy independence, and lower utility prices for struggling middle class families. We want to give Congress a say on extreme policies from the administration that take aim at middle class jobs in each of our States. But we can't do any of that without dance partners on the Democratic side. And there is hardly a true moderate in sight anymore. I can remember when we used to have moderates over on the Democratic side, but we can't find them today. It is a shame for our country.

I and my party are going to keep fighting for the middle class either way, even if we have to continue carrying on the battle for sensible, commonsense solutions all by ourselves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SANDERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2548 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. SANDERS. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

KRAUSE NOMINATION

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak on the nomination of Cheryl Krause to serve as a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Cheryl Krause was nominated by the President on February 6, 2014.

I want to start with a few thank yous for where we are in this process. First, Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY. I appreciate their expediting the consideration of Cheryl Krause through committee. They moved that process along very quickly.

I thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for agreeing to bring Ms. Krause's nomination to the Senate floor so quickly. In fact, later this morning my understanding is we have a cloture vote on consideration of her nomination.

From my point of view, this is part of an ongoing effort I have with Senator CASEY, my colleague from Pennsylvania—a bipartisan collaboration to make sure we are filling vacancies as they occur, as quickly as we responsibly can, to make sure we have as close to a full complement of Federal judges as we possibly can.

So thus far, in the 3½ years I have been in the Senate, Senator CASEY and I have worked closely, and we have had 10 people who have gone through the entire process—from the application process, the vetting process, the consideration, the recommendation by Senator CASEY and myself jointly to the White House, the nomination, and through the confirmation process—10 people who have successfully gone through that process already. There are four additional candidates, recently nominated by the President at the recommendation of Senator CASEY and myself, and I am very hopeful the Senate will confirm all four of them later this year.

We still have remaining vacancies, and we are working on filling those vacancies as well, but we are making progress, and it is in this spirit of bipartisan cooperation in filling vacancies on the Federal court that Senator CASEY and I are both enthusiastically supporting the nomination of Ms. Krause to the Third Circuit.

I certainly hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today will vote to support her confirmation.

Cheryl Krause is an extremely qualified individual. There is no question about that. She has a wealth of legal experience in both public service and in private practice. In fact, her background is so impressive that the ABA gave her a unanimous well-qualified rating.

She has excellent educational credentials. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated summa cum laude. She went on to Stanford Law School, where she graduated with highest honors. She clerked for Justice Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court.

She has been a U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she served for 5 years. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Deckert LLP.

So she has a wealth of experience—it is relevant experience—and a terrific background. She has been both on the prosecution side and on the defense side, so she understands both perspectives, both of which need to be understood to have a properly balanced perspective on the court.

In addition to a very strong legal record, Cheryl Krause has demonstrated a commitment to serving her community. She served as counsel to the Philadelphia Board of Ethics. She has represented children with disabilities. She has led Deckert's partnership with Penn Law School in a project that supervises law students representing indigent defendants.

She comes from a family of public service. Her husband has a distinguished career in the United States military.

So, to conclude, I am confident Ms. Krause will serve as an excellent Federal appellate judge. She has the crucial qualities we look for in a candidate for such an important post: intelligence, integrity, experience, a

commitment to public service, and an understanding of and respect for the limited role the judiciary plays in our constitutional system.

The Senate Judiciary Committee apparently shares my confidence in Cheryl Krause. They unanimously reported her out of committee, unanimously supporting her confirmation.

So I am pleased to speak on behalf of this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the Supreme Court's decision to strike down President Obama's illegal recess appointments. Article II, section 2 of the Constitution provides for only two ways in which Presidents may appoint certain officers:

First, it provides that the President nominates and, by and with the advice of the Senate, appoints various officers.

Second, it permits the President to make temporary appointments when a vacancy in one of those offices happens when the Senate is in recess.

On January 4, 2012, the President made four appointments. They were purportedly based on the recess appointments clause. He took this action even though they were not made, in the words of the Constitution, ''during the recess of the Senate.'' These appointments were blatantly unconstitutional. They were not made with the advice and consent of the Senate, and they were not made ''during the recess of the Senate.'' In December and January of 2011 and 2012, the Senate held sessions every 3 days. It did so precisely to prevent the President from making recess appointments. It followed the very same procedure as it had during the term of President Bush, and that was done at the insistence of Majority Leader REID. President Bush then declined to make recess appointments during these periods, thus respecting the desire of the Senate and the Constitution that we were in session. But President Obama chose to attempt to make recess appointments despite the existence of the Senate being in session.

The Supreme Court said today:

> [F]or purposes of the Recess Appointments Clause, the Senate is in session when it says it is, provided that, under its own rules, it retains the capacity to transact Senate business.

That is a quote from the decision.

No President in history had ever attempted to make recess appointments when the Senate said it was in session. And I am a little surprised, since President Obama had served in the Senate, that he would not know how this had been respected in the past by Presidents.

President Obama failed to act ''consistent with the Constitution's broad delegation of authority to the Senate to 'determine the Rules of its Proceedings,' '' as the Constitution states.

These illegal appointments represent just one of the many important areas where President Obama has disregarded the laws with his philosophy of the ends justify the means.

We should all be thankful the Supreme Court has reined in this kind of lawlessness on the part of this administration, and it should also bring some confidence that at least from time to time—maybe not as often as our constituents think—the checks and balances of government do work.

The Supreme Court was called upon to decide whether President Obama could make recess appointments even when the Senate was in pro forma session. Fortunately for the sake of the Constitution and the protection of individual liberty, the Supreme Court said he could not. This is a very significant decision. It is the Supreme Court's biggest rebuke of any President—because this was a unanimous decision—since 1974 when it ordered President Nixon to produce the Watergate tapes. The unanimous decision included both Justices whom even this President appointed to the Supreme Court.

That shows the disregard in which the President held this body and the Constitution when he made these appointments. Remember, as I just said, I am a little surprised because at one time he was Senator Barack Obama.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, the use of recess appointments will now be made only in accordance with the views of the writers of the Constitution, our Founding Fathers.

It is worth keeping in mind what the President, the Justice Department, and the Senate said at the time of these appointments. The President said his nominees were pending and he would not wait for the Senate to take action if that meant important business would be done. So the President stated in another way that ''I have a pen and a phone, and if Congress won't, I will.'' But the Supreme Court has made clear that failure to confirm does not create Presidential appointment power.

The appointments were so blatantly unconstitutional that originally there was speculation that the Justice Department had not approved their legality. But, in fact, the Department's Office of Legal Counsel had provided a legal opinion that claimed to justify the appointments—in other words, justify the unconstitutional action of the President. The Department's Office of Legal Counsel's reasoning was preposterous, and this unanimous decision backs that up. That office defined the same word—''recess''—that appears in the Constitution in two different places differently and without justification. It claimed that the Senate was not available to do business, so that it was in recess when the President signed legislation that the Congress passed during those pro forma sessions. The Department allowed the President, rather than the Congress, to decide whether the Senate was in session.

As today's Supreme Court unanimous decision makes clear, the Office of Legal Counsel opinion was an embarrassment, reflecting very poorly on its author. She had told us in her confirmation hearing that she would not let her loyalty to the President overcome her loyalty to the law. This Office of Legal Counsel opinion proved otherwise. It said the President had a power he did not have. He did not have that power, as expressed today by that unanimous decision of the Supreme Court.

Those partisans in that office who defended that opinion and its author should be humbled and should take back their misplaced praise—not that I expect them to do so.

The Office of Legal Counsel opinion furthered a trend for that office from one which gave the President objective advice about his authority to one which provided legal justification for whatever action he had already decided he wanted to take. Perhaps now that the office has been so thoroughly humiliated, it will hopefully conclude that the Department and the President will be better served by returning to the former role of that office as a servant of the law and not a servant of the President.

The other statements to keep in mind were from Senators. No Senator of the President's party criticized President Obama for making these clearly unconstitutional appointments, even though they felt we ought to protect against President Bush doing that. Rather than protect the constitutional powers of the Senate and the separation of powers, they protected their party's President.

Those were not the Senate's best moments. This underscores again the need to change the operation of the Senate. Appointment powers and the separation of powers are not simply constitutional concepts, they are the rule for how the American people are protected from abuse by government officials. They exist not so much to protect the branches of government but to safeguard individual liberty.

I often quote from Federalist Papers, this time from 51. Madison wrote that the ''separate and distinct exercise of different powers of government'' is ''essential to the preservation of liberty.''

President Obama's unconstitutional recess appointments are part of a pattern in which he thinks that if he cannot otherwise advance his agenda, he can unilaterally thwart the law. That is a pretty authoritarian approach to governing. Whether it is with respect to drugs, immigration, recess appointments, health care, and a number of other areas, President Obama has concluded he can take unilateral action regardless of the law. And, of course, as

we see in the case of these appointments, the Justice Department has aided and abetted him.

Praise today to the Supreme Court for forcing the President to confront the errors of his ways, for enforcing the constitutional structure that protects our freedom, and maybe cause him to modify that statement he made earlier this year that:

''When Congress won't, I will, because I've got a pen . . . and I've got a telephone . . . ''

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as we all know, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, is in shambles. Two national reports this week have highlighted the fact that bureaucratic ineptitude and incompetence seem to be the norm there. Unfortunately, reports that surfaced out of Phoenix which led to the resignation of Secretary Shinseki do not seem limited to Arizona.

I wish to talk about where we are nationally with this scandal, and also specific instances that have come out of Louisiana I have learned about working directly with whistleblowers and working directly with families of veterans whom I am very concerned about who are examples of this same sort of abuse.

On Monday, the head of the agency that investigates whistleblower complaints in the Federal Government, Carolyn Lerner, sent a blistering letter to President Obama stating that the VA Office of the Medical Inspector has repeatedly undermined legitimate whistleblowers by confirming their allegations of wrongdoing but dismissing them as having no impact on patient care.

Lerner's letter lists numerous cases where whistleblowers reported numerous failings at the VA, including examples where drinking water at the VA facility at Grand Junction, CO, was tainted with elevated levels of Legionella bacteria, which can cause a form of pneumonia, and standard maintenance and cleaning procedures not being performed at the facility.

Also, in Montgomery, AL, a VA pulmonologist portrayed past test readings as current results in more than 1,200 patient files, ''likely resulting in inaccurate patient health information being recorded.''

In these cases, among many others, VA whistleblowers brought the information to the special counsel, an independent Federal entity charged with enforcing whistleblower protection laws. The special counsel passed it along to the Office of the Medical Inspector, but that VA medical inspector concluded the hospital's failings, while accurately reported by the whistleblowers, didn't threaten veterans health or safety, even when the VA inspector general had concluded that similar faults compromised care in other cases.

This is deeply troubling and severely cripples any belief that the VA is in any way capable of fixing its deep-seated problems on its own.

My colleague, Senator COBURN of Oklahoma, whom I have worked with closely in dealing with many of these VA problems, also released his oversight report on the Department entitled ''Friendly Fire: Death, Delay, and Dismay at the VA.'' To say his report is troubling is quite an understatement. Some of the key findings I found most troubling in the report were these: the fact that there seems to be a perverse culture, his report said, within the Department where veterans are not always the priority and data and employees are manipulated to maintain an appearance that all is well.

In many cases it also seems bad employees are rewarded with bonuses and paid leave, while whistleblowers, health care providers, even veterans and their families are subjected to bullying, sexual harassment, abuse, and neglect.

Senator COBURN's report also highlights criminal activity by VA employees, vast amounts of waste at the VA, the fact that the VA actually made waiting lists worse, and the VA Committee, led by BERNIE SANDERS, largely ignored these warnings and delay. That committee, under Senator SANDERS, has only held two oversight hearings in the last 4 years.

As I said, this is a national scandal. These are national problems. The two reports I alluded to are national reports. But I know from my work in Louisiana that they have consequences, and that similar cases exist in Louisiana. I have been deeply involved in a couple that I wish to highlight.

First, the Overton Brooks scandal in Shreveport, LA. A whistleblower came forward to my office with very troubling information regarding the VA hospital in Shreveport called Overton Brooks. The whistleblower is a licensed clinical social worker there, and he accused that VA facility of the following: maintaining a secret wait list and manipulating the official electronic wait list; using gaming strategies to manipulate reported wait times—for example, holding appointments without scheduling them until capacity opens or entering into the system that the patient requested an out-of-date appointment when that just wasn't true; providing group therapy appointments to mental health patients, and counting these group sessions as an appointment with a primary care provider, which they were clearly not.

These aren't just allegations. I have also personally seen emails the whistleblower provided, and that has shown that this secret list could contain up to 2,700 veterans. It also seems to confirm that, while waiting for appointments, 37 of those veterans died.

Since hearing these allegations, I have sent a letter demanding a full investigation into Overton Brooks to the inspector general of the VA, and I have confirmed that that is happening. That absolutely is moving forward.

No veteran who served this country should be put on any secret waiting list. At a time when we are learning more and more about rampant mismanagement at the VA across the country, any internal allegations such as that should be taken very seriously and clearly investigated.

That brings me to the second case I have personally dealt with and learned about in Louisiana, this case out of the New Orleans area.

Gwen Moity Nolan was the daughter of a distinguished veteran. She came to one of my recent townhall meetings in New Orleans, and she explained to me personally that her dad passed away in 2011 while a patient at the VA hospital in New Orleans, allegedly in part due to delayed and poor care at the facility.

She described the medical treatment there as poor, and that her father's doctor had a terrible attitude and regularly refused to show up at the hospital in key situations.

She requested that information from the VA, including information regarding a supposed investigation into the case of her father, be given to her.

Her dad had passed. What she most wanted was to be sure the VA got it—to be sure the VA in New Orleans took some remedial action to correct the situation. Her case was done. Her case was done in two ways: First of all, tragically, her father was dead. Her father was passed. Secondly, she brought a legal action against the VA, and that was settled for a substantial sum of money which she received, and she is not disputing that or reopening that. That is done. But she wanted to know that these problems have been addressed.

On June 3 I sent a letter to the Acting Secretary of the VA, Sloan Gibson, demanding this information and the steps the VA has taken to correct what went wrong.

After the New Orleans VA responded by saying ''patient privacy laws prohibit us from discussing specific patient information,'' I sent another letter with the pertinent constituent's privacy release form. The patient is dead. The daughter will sign any release form they want. This was clearly stonewalling to avoid giving us appropriate information.

Unfortunately, the VA responded that they cannot share this information with my office unless very specific criteria are met. Guess what. They didn't think it was relevant to list the specific criteria we need to meet. Again, more pure stonewalling.

This information is extremely important, and I am continuing to fight to get my constituents and myself this information about if and how the New Orleans VA fixed these problems. I will

be demanding a meeting as soon as possible with the head of the New Orleans VA hospital so I can answer those questions directly, and that person had better not stonewall me to my face. That will have very negative consequences. We are setting up that meeting. That meeting will happen, and I will be following up on this New Orleans case.

Similarly, I am following up on the Shreveport case that came to light because of the whistleblower. I will be in Shreveport tomorrow, meeting with two significant people directly involved in these issues—one an official at the VA; the second, someone who has come with additional information to confirm the fears, claims, and concerns of the original whistleblower. So I will be having those meetings in Shreveport tomorrow.

Again, these Louisiana cases that I have been personally involved in underscore the serious scandal at the VA. Every community has these cases. Every State has these cases. Every Senator—Republican, Democrat, Independent—has these cases. We need to fix these to properly honor our veterans. We need to ensure that this sort of abuse—in some cases, fraud and dishonesty—to the great detriment of our veterans never happens again.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, almost exactly 1 year ago to this day, all of the Members of this Senate came to this Chamber for what each of us understood was a historic vote because after years and even decades of debate and discussion, a small group of bipartisan Senators—Members from different backgrounds, different States, and certainly different philosophies—came together to reach an agreement on landmark legislation, a bill that would truly change the lives of millions of Americans. They had reached a deal that would significantly boost our economy, make every one of our communities fundamentally safer, and help millions of men and women pursue the American dream. But most of all, it was a deal that showed the United States was still capable of adapting, improving, and striving for perfection.

Still, the deal was not perfect. After all, it was a compromise, and once it was reached, it had to survive incredible scrutiny throughout the committee process and then during the floor consideration. But somehow it made it through.

So 1 year ago this week when each Member of the Senate came to the Chamber, we did something we don't normally do: We honored an old Senate tradition and actually cast our votes from our desks. That night, we finally passed comprehensive immigration reform through the Senate. I well remember the optimism we all shared that night. After years of trying, we had finally passed—with votes from both Republicans and Democrats—legislation that would finally start to fix our broken immigration system. It would strengthen our borders, support our businesses and, most importantly, provide a real path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are forced to live in the shadows as Americans in all but name. The Congressional Budget Office even estimated that the Senate bill would grow our economy and reduce the deficit by nearly $1 trillion over the next 2 decades.

We sent the bill to the House of Representatives knowing the path forward there might not be easy, but we heard from Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER, majority leader ERIC CANTOR, and dozens of other Members from both sides of the aisle that they also knew immigration reform had to happen this Congress.

Well, since then we have watched and we have waited as the Speaker and House Republicans simply refuse week after week, month after month to take up the Senate bill and move this process forward. For a full year we have witnessed exactly what it looks like when Congress simply fails to do its job for the American people.

Our broken immigration system is not a hypothetical problem. This isn't an obscure, philosophical disagreement over the role of government. This is an issue that has real, tangible consequences for millions of Americans. While America has watched House Republicans fail to act for a full year, we have seen some of those consequences up close.

Since the Senate passed immigration reform, tens of thousands of people—many of them women and children—have been senselessly deported from this country and separated from their families for no reason other than their undocumented status.

Businesses large and small have begged Members of the House to pass reform, including tech companies that need to hire the best and brightest from around the world and agricultural businesses that desperately need a stable workforce.

Now we are seeing hundreds of unaccompanied young children along our country's southern border. Many of these children are fleeing horrific gang violence in their home countries. They are desperately seeking safety and a new life in the United States. But because of our broken immigration laws, we are nearly helpless to respond and live up to our Nation's global reputation as a place of safety and fairness and freedom. Although these children broke our immigration laws, they are not criminals. They are simply coming to our country to escape violence at home and strive for a better life in America.

It is not only along our southern border where our immigration system is hurting families and hurting communities. In my home State of Washington I have heard from hundreds of families and businesses that have been directly impacted by this broken system, businesses such as West Sound Lumber Company on Orcas Island. It is a small sawmill that has been owned by the Helsell family for more than four decades. West Sound Lumber is only able to keep its doors open because of one young man—Benjamin Nunez-Marquez. He goes by ''Ben.'' Ben is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, and he arrived on Orcas Island more than a decade ago. He has become a cherished member of that community and an expert sawyer. The Helsells will tell you that they would have to close down if they lost Ben, and that possibility nearly became a reality when Ben was randomly stopped by an immigration official while he was taking an elderly neighbor to a doctor's appointment out of town. Although he posed no danger to his community, the Department of Homeland Security scheduled him for deportation, which was only narrowly avoided this year after I took his case directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Seattle Times told Ben's story on its front page.

We should not be kicking people like Ben Nunez-Marquez out of this country. We should welcome him, treat him as a human being, and give him an opportunity to become a citizen in the country he loves—our country.

Senseless deportations are not the only symptom of our broken immigration laws. Just this year local headlines and television reports in Washington State have revealed very concerning treatment of undocumented detainees at the Northwest Detention Center. That treatment led to a widely publicized hunger strike and protest in communities across my State.

This is simply unacceptable. We must demand better than an immigration system that leaves men and women whose only crime is pursuit of the American dream to be locked up, abused, and discarded over the border. These problems are not new, and they are not going away.

Throughout this year we have heard that House Republicans will have a window of opportunity to act on immigration reform. Well, we are in that window now. Republican primaries are behind us and the general election is months away, but that window is quickly closing. The pressure is on House Republicans, and millions of Americans across the country are hoping they do the right thing. The time to act is now.

I think it is time to hope for the best but also plan for the worst. President Obama has made it clear that he is

willing to take administrative action if the House refuses to pass comprehensive immigration reform. I am on the floor of the Senate today to lay out my principles of what that action should look like and what I will urge the President to do if the worst happens and Republicans in the House do nothing.

First of all, the administration should make changes to ensure that while we are being tough on those who are a threat to our public safety or our national security, we are also enforcing our immigration laws in a smart, humane way for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are American in all but name. Frankly, that means changing our priorities. It means focusing our immigration enforcement efforts, including deportations, on actual criminals who are a danger to our communities, not innocent people such as Ben who randomly cross paths with an immigration official and not undocumented immigrants who live in our communities, attend church alongside us, and whose crime is seeking a better life in the United States of America.

It also means we should stop relying on detention centers to lock away undocumented immigrants who pose no public safety risk, are already in our country, and are contributing members of their community. Rather than simply locking them up under terrible conditions and then sending them away, we should take advantage of more humane, more cost-effective methods of enforcement, such as weekly check-ins with our immigration officials.

Secondly, we need to reestablish in our immigration system the most basic of American principles: due process of law. For example, if you are in our country, absolutely no one should be deported or turned away from the United States without a hearing before an immigration judge. Part of making that a reality is providing the funding for immigration judges and access to legal information for undocumented immigrants.

The policies at every single Federal agency that deals with undocumented immigrants, including ICE, Border Patrol, and any other agency, should be reformed so they are consistent, transparent, and fair. For far too long the rules have been different from one Federal agency to another and the policies have been so convoluted and illogical that innocent families are being torn apart.

We should also discontinue the use of unconstitutional ICE detainers when there is no probable cause, as many counties have bravely done in the Pacific Northwest, because not only is holding someone without probable cause a violation of our constitutional rights, it is expensive to local sheriffs and diverts precious law enforcement resources away from policing and protecting communities.

We should reduce the 100-mile enforcement radius for Border Patrol agents and make sure there is not 1 inch of land in this country that can be called a Constitution-free zone.

Finally, we must expand prosecutorial discretion and decide that before we deport someone such as Ben Nunez-Marquez out of this country, we should take a second to use our common sense first. We should build on the great success the administration has had with DACA—the deferred action for childhood arrivals policy—and ensure that Federal agencies are focusing their efforts on actual criminals, not families trying to make a life in the United States.

None of these actions can solve the underlying problem of a broken immigration system. Only legislation from Congress can do that. If the inaction of the House Republicans continues—and I hope it doesn't—we could be left without a choice.

Since that historic vote 1 year ago, we have all watched as more and more of our friends and neighbors fall victim to immigration laws that were designed for criminals, not families or our economy. We have seen Members of the House of Representatives choose politics over good policy and completely ignore a full-blown crisis that we have the power to change.

I look forward to working with President Obama, along with Republicans and Democrats alike in Congress, to make sure our immigration system works. I know so many people here and around the country join me in hoping the House Republicans step up and do the job the American people expect them to do.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPREME COURT DECISION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome the Supreme Court's decision in the Noel Canning case. It represents a clear rebuke to the President's brazen power grab—a power grab I was proud to lead the effort against. Today's decision was clear, and it was a unanimous—unanimous—rebuke of the President of the United States.

As my Republican colleagues and I have said all along, President Obama's so-called recess appointments to the NLRB in 2012 were a wholly unprecedented act of lawlessness. The President defied the Senate's determination that it was meeting regularly, and the Supreme Court unanimously—unanimously—agreed with us.

Today's ruling is a victory for the Senate, for the American people, and for our Constitution.

The Court reaffirmed the Senate's clear and constitutional authority to prescribe its own rules, including the right to determine for itself when it is in session. And the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the President's completely unprecedented assertion of a unilateral appointment power—a power the Framers deliberately withheld from his office.

Our counsel, Miguel Estrada, did an outstanding job defending the Senate and its uniquely important place in our constitutional system. By contrast, our Democratic colleagues shirked their institutional duty to defend the Senate. They failed, yet again, to stand up to the President. Although they failed to defend the Senate when it mattered most, they, their successors, and their constituents will benefit from today's ruling.

The principle at stake in this case should extend well beyond narrow partisanship. It should be about more than just one President or one political party.

In closing, the administration's tendency to abide only by the laws it likes represents a disturbing and dangerous threat to the rule of law. That is true whether we are talking about recess appointments or ObamaCare.

So I hope the Obama administration will take away the appropriate lessons because the Court's decision today is a clear rebuke of this behavior.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL ANN KRAUSE TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will vote to defeat the filibuster against the nomination of Cheryl Krause to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Her nomination has the strong bipartisan support of Pennsylvania Senators, Senator BOB CASEY and Senator PATRICK TOOMEY. The American Bar Association has unanimously given her their highest rating of ''well qualified.'' The Senate Judiciary Committee reported her unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate this past April, nearly 3 months ago.

Ms. Krause should already have been confirmed and be at work for the American people. Instead, Senate Republicans continue to filibuster qualified, uncontroversial nominees who in previous years would have been confirmed without any delay. This is deeply unfair to all Americans seeking access to justice and to the judicial nominees who, like Cheryl Krause, have had distinguished careers in the law. Of the 54 judicial nominees filibustered this year, 30 have been confirmed unanimously, without a single vote against them. These filibusters are undeserved, and should stop.

Ms. Krause has worked in private practice for over a decade, including as a partner at Dechert LLP and a shareholder at Hangley, Aronchick Segal, & Pudlin. Her work has focused on complex criminal defense matters in securities fraud, antitrust, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She has also taught courses on appellate advocacy, cyber crime, and judicial decisionmaking at University of Pennsylvania Law School and Stanford Law School. Professors from both universities have written in strong support for her nomination, and I ask consent that these letters be included in the RECORD.

From 1997 to 2002, Ms. Krause served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she distinguished herself as the lead prosecutor in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Before becoming a prosecutor, she worked as an associate at the prestigious firm of Davis, Polk, & Wardwell and as a law clerk at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe LLP. After graduating with honors from Stanford Law School, she served as a law clerk to Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1993 to 1994 and to Justice Anthony Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1994 to 1995.

Her commitment both to the practice of law and to her community in Philadelphia has been admirable. In 2011, as part of partnership between Dechert LLP and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, Ms. Krause brought a class action lawsuit in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on behalf of over 1,000 autistic students within the school district of Pennsylvania challenging the school district's transfer of these students from school to school without adequate notice to parents. After 2 years of litigation, Ms. Krause was successful, and the district court required the school district to redevelop its policy. Ms. Krause has also helped to launch the Philadelphia Project, a program that provides legal services to families of children with disabilities in the school district of Philadelphia.

She is well qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Her record of accomplishments is unquestionable, as is her dedication to the rule of law and the Constitution. I urge my colleagues to vote to defeat the filibuster against this excellent nominee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL,
Stanford, CA, March 10, 2014.

Subject: Nomination of Cheryl A. Krause to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: We write as the three former deans and the current dean of Stanford Law School to express our enthusiastic support for Cheryl A. Krause, who has been nominated for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Cheryl Krause graduated at the top of her class at Stanford Law School in 1993. She was first in her class after her first year of law school, and she and her partner were the champions of the school-wide Kirkwood Moot Court Competition. Ms. Krause herself was selected as the best oral advocate in that final round. Following her graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Kozinski, now the Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Following her clerkships, she has pursued a wonderfully varied career—as a law teacher, law firm lawyer and partner, and an Assistant United States attorney. She has been repeatedly recognized as one of the finest lawyers in the United States. Along the way, she has somehow found time to perform an enormous amount of pro bono legal representation and has been repeatedly recognized for those contributions as well.

We write to tell you about Ms. Krause's reputation at Stanford. That reputation can only be captured through a series of adjectives that faculty use to describe their impression of her: exceptional, stellar, admirable, brilliant, incomparable. She is remembered as an academic stand-out in and out of the classroom, a student leader, a superb young lawyer, and a student who, faculty predicted, would always combine a challenging legal practice with pro bono and public service throughout her career.

Faculty members describe her as ''brilliant,'' ''among the small handful of top students I have ever taught'' ''the best student oral advocate I have ever seen,'' ''truly possessing a judicial temperament,'' and ''ideally qualified temperamentally and intellectually suited'' to be a judge. Ms. Krause's career after law school has fulfilled these impressions and predictions and more. She has forged a remarkable path as a lawyer, and it is one that has prepared her well for a career on the bench.

We hope that you will give her your most serious consideration. We are optimistic that you will find her record as impressive as that of her former teachers and mentors at Stanford Law School.

Sincerely,

PAUL BREST,
Professor Emeritus and former Dean, Stanford Law School.
KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN,
Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, (former Dean, Stanford Law School).
LARRY KRAMER,
President, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, (former Dean, Stanford Law School).
M. ELIZABETH MAGILL,
Dean and Richard E. Lang Professor of Law, Stanford Law School.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
LAW SCHOOL,
Philadelphia, PA, March 7, 2014.

Re Cheryl Ann Krause.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: As faculty members at the University of Pennsylvania Law School who have had the privilege of working with Cheryl Ann Krause, we write to express our enthusiastic support of her nomination to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Since she was first appointed a Lecturer in Law in 2003, Cheryl has taught Penn Law courses in cybercrime, evidence, and appellate advocacy, and has guest-lectured in three courses taught by other faculty. As a partner at the Dechert firm, Cheryl has been the lead person teaching our Federal Appellate Litigation Externship, in which Penn Law students are assigned to litigation teams at Dechert working on pro bono cases pending before the Third Circuit. In the early 2000s, Cheryl was a Barrister member of the University of Pennsylvania Law School American Inn of Court (an organization that seeks to promote ethics and professionalism by bringing together law students, practitioners, and judges for periodic discussions on legal issues), and she participated in presenting three Inn of Court programs on different topics.

In her teaching and mentoring at the Law School, Cheryl has demonstrated the talents that will make her a first-rate judge. Not

only does Cheryl bring to her tasks a powerful analytical capacity, but also she has consistently displayed fair-mindedness and intellectual curiosity. Her knack for providing students and young lawyers with rigorous yet constructive feedback signals that she would show respect to the lawyers who appear before the Court while subjecting their contentions to penetrating scrutiny. Cheryl possesses excellent judgment and high integrity, and her interpersonal skills would make her a valued and collegial member of the Court.

In sum, we believe that Cheryl's legal acumen, temperament, and experience make her a superb candidate for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and we heartily support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Stephanos Bibas, Professor of Law and Criminology, Director, Supreme Court Clinic; Jill E. Fisch, Perry Golkin Professor of Law, Co-Director, Institute for Law and Economics; Paul M. George, Associate Dean for Curriculum, Development and Biddle Law Library; Kermit Roosevelt, Professor of Law; Theodore Ruger, Professor of Law, Deputy Dean; Catherine T. Struve, Professor of Law; Christopher S. Yoo, John H. Chestnut Professor of Law, Communication, and Computer & Information Science, Director, Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition; Stephen B. Burbank, David Berger Professor for the Administration of Justice; Michael A. Fitts, Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law; Seth F. Kreimer, Kenneth W. Gemmill Professor of Law; David Rudovsky, Senior Fellow; Louis S. Rulli, Practice Professor of Law and Clinical Director; Amy L. Wax, Robert Mundheim Professor of Law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Ayotte	Collins	Hirono
Baldwin	Coons	Johnson (SD)
Bennet	Donnelly	Kaine
Blumenthal	Durbin	King
Booker	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Boxer	Franken	Landrieu
Brown	Gillibrand	Leahy
Cantwell	Hagan	Levin
Cardin	Harkin	Manchin
Carper	Heinrich	Markey
Casey	Heitkamp	McCaskill
Menendez	Reed	Tester
Merkley	Reid	Toomey
Mikulski	Rockefeller	Udall (NM)
Murkowski	Sanders	Walsh
Murphy	Schatz	Warner
Murray	Schumer	Warren
Nelson	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Pryor	Stabenow	Wyden

NAYS—39

Alexander	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Isakson	Scott
Cornyn	Johanns	Sessions
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cruz	Kirk	Thune
Enzi	Lee	Vitter
Fischer	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Begich	Cochran
Coburn	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 57, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

The Republican whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to spend a few moments this morning talking about realistic solutions to the ongoing crisis along American's southern border.

Obviously, I come from a border State where we have 1,200 miles of common border with the nation of Mexico—which, of course, has been the gateway now to this humanitarian wave of unaccompanied children coming from Central America into the United States. I will talk more about that in detail, but I first want to comment on something the majority leader said this morning in his opening remarks.

With what has now become his trademark hyperbole and frequent disregard for the facts, the majority leader suggested that the Republican platform was: Deport first, find solutions later—or never.

I find that offensive, and it is certainly not true. I can just assume that the majority leader has had other things that have taken his attention and he has ignored completely the concrete solutions I and others have been promoting, some of which I will talk about here in a moment.

The last thing I would say specifically to this offensive and untrue comment of the majority leader this morning is: If you are truly concerned about this issue, Senator REID, you might want to focus on Members of your own party. After all, no less than Vice President JOE BIDEN has said of the unaccompanied minors flooding across from the U.S.-Mexican border:

It is necessary to put them back in the hands of a parent in the country from which they came.

He went on to say:

Once an individual's case is fully heard, and if he or she does not qualify for asylum, he or she will be removed from the United States and returned home.

That is Vice President BIDEN. Perhaps the majority leader should talk to him or he could talk to our former Senate colleague Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State, who said this about these unaccompanied children:

[They] should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who the responsible adults in their families are.

That is former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and, in all likelihood, the Democratic Party's nominee for the President of the United States in 2016. Perhaps the majority leader should talk to her or he could talk to the Secretary of Homeland Security under whose purview this issue falls most directly, who said that:

Under current U.S. laws and policies, anyone who is apprehended crossing our border illegally is a priority for deportation, regardless of age.

Perhaps the majority leader should pick up the phone and talk to him.

So rather than make offensive, politically motivated allegations, perhaps the majority leader should get his facts straight, talk to leaders of his own political party, and then work with us on this side of the aisle to try to find some realistic solutions.

As the insurgency rages in Iraq and the border between Syria and Iraq has collapsed and attention here in Washington has turned to other parts of the globe, I can say, without a doubt, the attention of my constituents in Texas is still very much focused on what is happening on our southwestern border and this surge of unaccompanied minor children who are making a dangerous and treacherous journey from Central America through Mexico and ending up on our doorstep.

First of all, though, when the facts began to unfold the administration said that human smuggling operations are responsible for creating a misinformation campaign, and that is why we are seeing this surge of unaccompanied minors.

There may actually be an element of truth to that if we think about it, because if the human smuggling operations—the drug cartels, organizations such as the Zetas and the associated gangs that work with them—make money on each and every migrant who passes through these corridors of human trafficking and human smuggling, then they probably are making money—more money the more people who come. They probably make more money with children and women and other migrants whom they kidnap and hold for ransom. So there is some element of that.

But then we have been told by the administration that the surge is entirely the result of gang violence and poverty in Central America, and that it has nothing to do with President Obama's policies or his perceived commitment to our immigration laws, including the enforcement that only the executive branch can do.

A few days ago, however, Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson published what he called ''an open letter to the parents of children crossing our

Southwest border,'' in which he implicitly acknowledged that the President's immigration policies or the perception that he was less than committed to enforcing those policies has indeed become a magnet for illegal border crossings.

Referring to the so-called deferred action program President Obama announced in June of 2012—remember the President said, ''I have a pen and I have a phone''? Basically saying: I am going to go it alone, I am not going to work with Congress anymore? That was a product of the mentality and approach by the President.

But referring to the so-called deferred action program that President Obama announced in June of 2012, Secretary Johnson felt compelled in this open letter to inform his readers that:

The U.S. Government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also called ''DACA,'' does not apply to a child who crosses the U.S. border illegally today, tomorrow or yesterday.

It doesn't apply. Secretary Johnson reiterated this point in the very next paragraph when he said:

There is no path to deferred action or citizenship, or one being contemplated by Congress, for a child who crosses our border illegally today.

If the sole driver of the border crisis was in fact Central American violence and poverty, or smuggling organizations, then there is no reason to believe that Secretary Johnson needed to clarify the details of U.S. immigration policy. After all, if the migrant surge has nothing to do with U.S. policy, as the White House initially insisted, then clarifying what that policy is won't affect it at all. But it has become simply undeniable that President Obama's policies—including his unilateral deferred action program, as well as the perception that he less than seriously committed to enforcing current law and in fact has ordered Secretary Johnson to investigate and recommend a further relaxation of his enforcement policies—all of this has played a huge role in creating the perception to tens of thousands of unaccompanied children that you should risk your life and travel unaccompanied in the hands of the cartels to the United States, because there won't be any consequences associated with it.

It is that perception that the President continues to create by his silence that is the magnet for this illegal immigration.

Don't take my word for it. According to an internal Department of Homeland Security memo:

The main reason the subjects chose this particular time to migrate to the United States was to take advantage of the ''new'' U.S. ''Law'' that grants a ''free pass'' or permit . . .

In other words, they came because of a widespread perception that unaccompanied minors and women traveling with children would be allowed to stay, even after crossing the border illegally.

I think there is more to this story. In fact, what we have learned is that women traveling with children are frequently given a notice to appear once they are processed by the Border Patrol—a notice to appear for a hearing in a court that would then determine any claims of asylum or then determine whether they can stay in the United States or they would have to return to their country of origin. This is called a notice to appear.

Strangely enough, the vast majority of immigrants who get a notice to appear never show up. It makes one wonder about the ones who do show up, because there is absolutely no follow-through.

This is what is perceived, has been this ''permission'' or ''free pass'' or ''permiso'' in Spanish.

Meanwhile, a study by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Science and Technology Directorate concluded that the unaccompanied minors:

. . . are aware of the relative lack of consequences they will receive when apprehended at the U.S. border.

Relative lack of consequences. In other words, nothing happens to them. If you make it here, you will be able to stay. That is the perception.

Again, it is puzzling to me that even though the administration's own documents show a clear reason for the surge, they initially continue to offer the public a shifting narrative.

There is no doubt that drug- and gang-related violence in Central America is bad. It is a matter of tremendous concern for U.S. policymakers. It is terrible, it is heartbreaking, and it is something I propose we try to address. I had a great conversation, for example, on the floor a couple days ago with the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, who said: Maybe there is something we can do, as we have done in the past, in countries such as Colombia, countries such as Mexico, and elsewhere, where we have worked with our partners there to try to help them restore security and the rule of law. That certainly is a conversation I look forward to continuing.

But the fact is the violence in Central America didn't just begin a couple years ago. As a matter of fact, the murder rates in Guatemala and El Salvador were higher in 2009 than they were in 2012 and 2013. But the massive spike in illegal immigration by unaccompanied minors didn't start until 2012—the very same year, not coincidentally, when the President announced his unilateral deferred action program, again creating the perception that if you came here, you would be able to stay. Thus, there is no wonder that people felt as though the floodgates had opened, creating the humanitarian crisis and overwhelming the capacity of local, State, and Federal authorities to deal with all of these children.

By fiscal year 2013, the number of unaccompanied minors detained on our southern border had grown to nearly 25,000—up from 6,500 2 years earlier. From 6,500 to 25,000 in 2 years' time.

According to the New York Times:

From October to June 15th, 52,000 unaccompanied minors were caught at the American border with Mexico, twice the number for the same period in the previous year.

There are estimates that could turn out to be 60,000 or more this year and could double next year. One begins to wonder: Where does this end? How does this end?

So between the President's refusal to enforce our immigration laws and his ever-shifting explanation as to the source of the ongoing crisis, it is no wonder that the President has lost so much credibility on this issue.

Indeed, if the President wants to know why he hasn't been able to pass immigration reform in the House and the Senate, all he has to do is look at the fact that people have lost confidence in his willingness to enforce the law.

I know the senior Senator from New York has suggested: Well, we should pass an immigration law and postpone its effective date until after President Obama leaves office. I would say that is a shocking statement, it seems to me, which has been reiterated by the majority leader Senator REID.

There is an enormous amount of distrust about the Federal Government's commitment to enforce the law. So I don't care what the law might ultimately be; if the American people don't believe the President and the Attorney General and the executive branch will enforce the law, we have lost their confidence entirely, and we will never be able to improve and fix our broken immigration system, something I am committed to do.

Given all the different narratives coming out of the White House concerning the surge of unaccompanied minors, I think it would be good for the President to directly address the issue.

He has sent Vice President BIDEN to Central America. That is a positive step. I know Secretary Johnson has visited the Rio Grande Valley and some of these detention centers for unaccompanied minors. That is a positive step. And he has written this open letter to the parents of children in Central America discouraging them from sending their children on this long, perilous journey from Central America to the United States through these drug-smuggling and human-smuggling corridors controlled by the Zetas and other cartels.

Yesterday I submitted a resolution with my friend the junior Senator from Florida, Mr. RUBIO, that calls on the President to do five things:

No. 1, it calls on the President to publicly declare that the deferred action program he unilaterally announced in June 2012 will not apply to the recent waves of children who have been illegally crossing our southwestern border.

That is the same thing that Secretary Johnson and others have been saying, but it is different coming from the President of the United States. It

will be covered by the press. It will be communicated to parents in Central America: Don't send your children to the United States, making them an additional part of this humanitarian crisis, and subject them to all the perils I have talked about repeatedly of that treacherous trip from Central America to the United States.

Secondly, this resolution calls on the President to publicly discourage parents in Central America and Mexico and elsewhere from sending their kids on one of the most dangerous migration journeys in the world.

Third, it calls on the President to fully and faithfully enforce U.S. immigration laws.

I don't know what the facts are, but I do know some of the Members of the House of Representatives—LUIS GUTIÉRREZ has very recently said that if we can't pass immigration reform that suits him, he wants the President to take further unilateral action declining to enforce our immigration laws. That just contributes to the impression that is causing this wave of humanity to come to the United States and creating the humanitarian crisis. It doesn't fix it. It makes it worse.

I hope the President is watching and listening and decides that he needs to be the one to make the statement, because only the President has the bully pulpit necessary to deal with this.

Fourth, our resolution calls on the President to ensure that States such as Texas—and I see my colleague from Arizona; I would include Arizona, California, and other border States—have the resources we need to handle the crisis and to guarantee humane treatment of unaccompanied migrant children.

Some of my colleagues from Texas visited the facility in Lackland Air Force Base on Monday, including Senator CRUZ and others, and they reported back conditions which, frankly, are very disturbing.

Fifth, this resolution calls on the President to work closely with Mexico and Central American officials to improve security at Mexico's southern border. Mexico has a 500-mile southern border with Guatemala which is insecure and porous, through which all of the unaccompanied minors from Central America come.

I realize how controversial and polarizing the whole discussion about immigration can be, but I suggest we need to try to work together on a bipartisan basis to deal with it. Hopefully, by making this above partisan politics and doing our job, we can help resolve this immediate crisis, but then we can help regain the public's confidence so they will allow us to take the reasonable steps we know we need to take moving forward to fix our broken immigration laws.

I believe passing this resolution would send a powerful message about our commitment and the President's commitment to the rule of law, our commitment to resolving the current border crisis, and our commitment to saving these young children from unimaginably treacherous journeys through Mexico which I previously described.

I urge all of our colleagues to work together with us to send that message, and encourage the President to use the bully pulpit to send the message I have outlined.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. MCCAIN. First, I thank him for the resolution.

On behalf of myself and others, I appreciate the representation of the people of Texas who are literally experiencing a crisis on the southern border of our States—of the Senator's State as well as mine.

I note the presence of the Senator from Illinois. There is no greater advocate for the DREAMers, the children who were brought here, not willfully, and I believe that in our immigration reform bill we address that issue in a humane and compassionate fashion.

But I ask my colleague now: Isn't it terribly inhumane to see these children taken from these countries by some of the most unspeakable people on Earth—these coyotes? And their trip along the way these hundreds of miles is so cruel and inhumane to many of these children that it is chilling. These coyotes are terrible people. They commit crimes to these people and on these young children. They do terrible things. They sometimes ride on the top of a train where the safety is—obviously, their lives are literally in jeopardy.

Again, I appreciate the work that has been done on behalf of the DREAMers. But shouldn't we care a great deal about these children, even if they are not in the United States, for what they are undergoing now? And isn't it a humanitarian issue of the highest order, and wouldn't we be better served if we told these children and the people who are motivating them and making a lot of money bringing them here—wouldn't it be better for us to say: Look, anybody who shows up at our border is not going to be allowed to stay in this country. But if you go to our consulate, if you go to our embassy in the country in which you reside and make a case that your life is being threatened, you are being persecuted—whatever the conditions are for asylum in our country—then those cases can be judged, and then if it is a humanitarian case that warrants it, we can bring them into the United States of America.

But say: If you come to our border, you cross those—how many miles is it from the Guatemalan border?

Mr. CORNYN. It is 1200 miles.

Mr. MCCAIN. Don't subject yourself to a 1,200-mile trip, which is hazardous to your life and terrible things can happen to you.

Why don't we send a message: If you think you deserve asylum, then go to the consulate, go to the embassy, and we will have sufficient personnel there to take up your case. And if your case is compelling and meets our standards for asylum, then we are going to give it to you. But whatever you do, don't risk your life and your well-being to travel 1,200 miles in the hands of a coyote.

I would say to the Senator from Texas, sometimes when we say we have to have a secure border and the things we need to do, we are viewed sometimes as inhumane.

My question is: What is more inhumane than what is happening to these children now? Some of them are only 4, 5, 6 years old. What is more inhumane than what is happening to them as we speak?

Shouldn't the President of the United States do as the Secretary of Homeland Security did yesterday and say: You cannot stay in our country even if you show up on the border, but you can apply for humanitarian asylum in the United States of America?

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the question. I would say there is nobody in this Chamber who has been more involved in trying to fix our broken immigration laws than the senior Senator from Arizona. And certainly the senior Senator from Illinois has been very much involved. Both of them are members of the so-called Gang of 8 who were the primary authors of the Senate-passed immigration bill.

But I would point out that not even under that bill would these children be covered, because they wouldn't qualify for the so-called DREAM Act provisions authored by the senior Senator from Illinois.

That is the point the Secretary of Homeland Security has been trying to make—this is not a green light to anybody and everybody who wants to come to the United States.

For their protection, for the protection and safety of the American people, and in the interest of an orderly immigration flow and the rule of law, we need people to play by the rules, and it is the perception that there are no rules and that if you make it here, you will be able to stay regardless of whether you qualify under the law that created this flood of humanity. The second thing I would say, the Senator is exactly right. I think people underestimate the horror inflicted on migrants who are transported from Central America through Mexico up into the United States at the hands of transnational criminal organizations. The ''coyotes'' as we always called them are the human smugglers. They now have to pay the cartels for protection or they cannot travel through the corridors up through Mexico and the United States. These migrants in the process of being transported here, riding on the train the Senator alluded to called The Beast, are prone to accidents. They could lose their life, leg or limb, be kidnapped, held for ransom. Women will be raped and assaulted. It is horrific.

Who in their right mind would subject their family to those sorts of horrors only to end up in the United States when our laws do not permit their entry into this country? Somehow the President or the Secretary of Homeland Security are the only ones who have the bully pulpit who can send that message in a way none of us can to convince them we are going to enforce our law.

Mr. MCCAIN. The only way we are going to stop this right now is to convince these people not to listen to the coyotes who are advertising on regular television in these countries and to convince these people that trip will not lead to the result of being able to stay in the United States of America. Until that happens, they are going to believe that if they can get here, they can stay here.

All of our hearts and sympathies go out to people who live in these countries in terrible conditions. We understand why they want to come to the United States of America, but they are on a fool's errand. Meanwhile, they are putting their very lives at risk by taking that arduous journey to Texas from Honduras, Guatemala, or some other Central American country.

I see my friend—and there is no greater advocate for the DREAMers than Senator DURBIN—on the floor. He was one of the earliest and most outspoken on this issue. I hope he will join us in recognizing that the only way we can stop this is to make sure people know there is no pot of gold at the end of this terrible trip they are on.

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the senior Senator from Arizona and the senior Senator from Illinois—and I will turn the floor over to Senator DURBIN in a moment—that there are two big problems: This wave of children is coming and not allowed to legally stay in the United States and thus subject to being returned to their country of origin. Both Vice President BIDEN and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that is the law of the land.

If the President doesn't step up and use his bully pulpit to send this message in a way that none of us can because people pay attention to him and not as much to us—I think that is a fair statement—then this wave is going to continue, and it is going to get worse and worse.

I ask through the Chair to the senior Senator from Arizona and the senior Senator from Illinois—both of whom I know care passionately and are committed to fixing our broken immigration laws, although we have had our differences—how will the American people let us do this if they have lost confidence in the executive branch's willingness to enforce the current law? I think it makes it much, much harder.

In fact, as I alluded to a moment ago, the majority leader and the senior Senator from New York said: Let's pass immigration reform but delay its implementation until after President Obama leaves office.

That sounds like an embarrassing proposal.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will yield in a moment.

That has to be embarrassing. It shows a lack of confidence in the President's commitment to enforce the rule of law. I think it is a problem. I think the President can help mitigate that problem and help restore the impression that you are not going to get a free pass if you make it to our southern border.

I will gladly turn the floor over to my colleague.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I would like to ask the Senator from Texas a question. He said repeatedly that the President is not enforcing the existing law. We all acknowledge that there is a humanitarian crisis on our border, and I think we agree more than we disagree, but I do want to question the Senator's premise. Will the Senator from Texas tell me which existing law the President is not enforcing that has created this crisis?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to my friend from Illinois that I tried to make clear that the current law bars the entry of these children and people across the border because they would not even meet the terms of the President's Executive order, that is, if you believe the President's Executive order has the effect of law, which I don't.

There are a couple of issues. It is both the impression that the President is not committed to enforcing the law and the fact that now when these adults are detained and children are placed with relatives in the country, virtually none of them show up for their hearing. So the perception—because we don't have a comprehensive system to enforce our immigration laws even after people come to our country—and reality of how that works tells them that if they make it here, they will never have to leave.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. CORNYN. Sure.

Mr. DURBIN. Does the Senator know the origin of the law which requires that an unaccompanied child be turned over within 72 hours by the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Office of Refugee Resettlement? Does the Senator from Texas know who introduced that bill and who signed it into law?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the distinguished Senator through the Chair that I don't know who introduced the bill, but I do know who signed it into law, and that was President George W. Bush.

Mr. DURBIN. I say through the Presiding Officer that the bill was introduced by the Senator's former colleague from Texas, Richard Armey, and signed into law by President George W. Bush, which required what is currently taking place—that within 72 hours, unaccompanied children need to be taken out of the Department of Homeland Security—a law enforcement agency—and placed, through the Department of Health and Human Services, into some protective situation. The President is enforcing a law signed by President Bush and authored by the Congressman from Texas, Congressman Army.

I ask the Senator from Texas through the Chair, on what basis is he saying the President is not enforcing the law?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the Senator from Illinois, here is how it works—I don't think we disagree about the law or the origin of the law but how it works in application. These children are now being placed with family members who may not be documented. They may have entered the country in violation of the immigration law, but because it is perceived as a relatively safe place for them to temporarily reside pending further court proceedings, they place the children with a family member in the United States. Absent a family member, I presume they will be placed with a legal guardian or foster family or the like while the legal proceedings go forward.

Here is the practical problem: Once they make it here to the United States, if they never return to the court in response to their notice to appear, then they are lost forever to the immigration enforcement system and they become a part of the great American melting pot, never to be heard from or seen again unless they commit some other crime. That is how the press reports it in Central America and elsewhere. At least that is the report we hear from migrants themselves. They refer to it as a permiso, which is a notice to appear. At that point they think they are home free and never have to show up for their court hearing, and that it is as good as permission to enter the country. I believe that is what actually is happening.

Mr. DURBIN. If the Senator would yield for a question.

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. DURBIN. If I understand what he said, the law governing this situation is a law that was authored by a Republican Congressman from Texas, signed into law by a Republican President, George W. Bush, and is currently enforced by this President. And what the Senator from Texas is suggesting is that the law in and of itself has at least a loophole or an opening that if the person doesn't appear in court—the young child or the parent with the child—then they could be lost in our system. The Senator from Texas seems to be suggesting we need to change the law or at least address the law.

I have two questions. Will the Senator concede the fact that President Obama is enforcing the law as it is written? Secondly, what would the Senator do with these children once they show up in the United States?

Let's assume you had a 12-year-old child—which is a case I heard last

night—on top of a freight train for 4 days; finally made it into the United States, possibly at the hands of a coyote or smuggler—I make no excuse for them—pushed across the river, or Rio Grande, in a raft and told to report to the first person in uniform? What would the Senator have us do with the child at that point?

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would respond to my friend from Illinois and say I would have them enforce the law, which is as the Senator has just described. Once the Border Patrol processes the child or migrant, then they turn them over to Health and Human Services, where they can be placed in humanitarian and hopefully clean conditions so their interests can be looked after while their legal case proceeds.

The problem is not just the fact that there are no consequences once these children or others are released on a notice to appear, which is never enforced, it is also the perception that people—for example, this morning Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ said that he was so frustrated by our inability to pass immigration reform, that the President needs to withhold any deportations or radically, essentially, refuse to enforce the law even further.

America is the most generous country in the world when it comes to our legal immigration system. We naturalize about 800,000 people a year. It has been up to as many as 1 million people. We are very generous. But it is not too much to insist that people do it through legal means for their protection and ours.

The statements the President has been making and the unilateral actions he continues to take give the perception he doesn't care what Congress says; he is going to go it alone. As a matter of fact, this morning the Supreme Court rebuked the President on an illegal recess appointment—unconstitutional recess appointment.

I think it is not just the law as it is written on the books, it is also how the law is actually implemented. It is also the further perception that the President is going to continue to basically refuse to repatriate people who enter the country illegally.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I went to the White House last night. The President invited Democratic Members of the Senate, and we met with Cabinet and staff members. One of the President's close advisers I met with described what she had seen in McCallum, TX, and there were tears in her eyes when she told heartbreaking stories of babies, children, and infants who are coming to this country. Many of them are in the hands of smugglers and coyotes who have gotten money from their parents or family to transport them to the border of the United States.

She told me the story of a 12-year-old boy, whom I mentioned earlier, from Guatemala. He was put on the top of a freight train and told to hang on for 4 days. For 4 days this 12-year-old boy, scared to death, was on top of this freight train as it barreled through Central America on its way to the United States. He had with him the name of a relative in the United States, and that is it. He was told that as soon as he got across the border, look for somebody in a uniform, don't show any resistance, and present yourself, which he did. He now sits in a facility in Texas.

This is a horrible humanitarian situation. The numbers that are involved here—I will give for the record the numbers that have been reported, which are worth noting. Some people may think we are talking about hundreds of children. This year, and this year alone, as of June 15, unaccompanied children apprehended by the Border Patrol: Honduras, 15,000; Guatemala, 12,000; El Salvador, 11,000; and Mexico, 12,000. Almost 80 percent of these kids come from the countries Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Why are they coming here? They are coming here for a number of reasons: No. 1, there is this criminal network that gets money to transport children. They promise the families they will get them to the border. God only knows what will happen to those kids on their way. Some of them will die, some of the girls will be raped, and their lives may never be the same. It is a desperate, awful, tragic situation, and there is no getting around the fact that it is occurring.

Why are the families doing this? Why would you turn a fourth or fifth grader in your household loose to make that awful, deadly journey? Well, part of the reason is those three countries—Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala—are virtually lawless. They are three of the top five countries in the world when it comes to murder rates. There is a fear that the gangs in these countries will kill their kids anyway.

A young girl from one of these countries said: I ran. I didn't know what else to do because I was told one of the members of the gang wanted to take me on as a girlfriend. I know what happens to girls who become girlfriends. They are raped, killed, and left in a plastic bag on the side of the road.

Sadly, that is the reality of life for those children in some of these countries.

The United States is at the end of this journey and trying to decide the humane thing to do when an infant, a toddler, a 10-year-old, or a 12-year-old, shows up.

There is no easy answer.

The one point I wish to make and clarify—and I hope I did it in the course of my colloquy with my friend and colleague from Texas—this is not a question about whether President Obama has dreamed up a new law or is not enforcing an existing law. The President is enforcing the existing law in America, and here is what it says: When an unaccompanied child shows up on our border and our Border Patrol takes this child into custody, within 72 hours—we give them some time because it is not easy—we need to put this child in a different place outside of a law enforcement agency. Technically, we need to take them out of the police station part of the world and put them in some part of the world that is best for a child. That is what they are required to do under a law introduced by a Republican Texas Congressman, Dick Armey, and signed into law by a Republican President, George W. Bush. What President Obama is doing is enforcing a law which President Bush signed and was supported by Republicans.

So, please, for a second, can we stop the partisanship on this? Let's view this not as a political crisis but a humanitarian crisis, and let's acknowledge the obvious. The President has tried in his capacity to deal with the immigration issue. He has done more than he wanted to do as President. Last night at a gathering the President said: Does anyone think I believe Executive orders are the best way to govern America? No. It is better to do it by law. But let me tell my colleagues why he is forced into Executive orders.

It was 365 days ago, on the floor of this Senate, that we passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It was one of my prouder moments as a Senator. There were eight of us who wrote the bill and it took us months: four Republicans, including JOHN MCCAIN, who was just on the floor, my friend MARCO RUBIO of Florida, JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, and—I am thinking for a second; I blanked on it, but I will think of the other one in just a second—LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina. So the four Republicans, and on our side of the table we had CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, myself, BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado.

We went at it for months and we wrote the bill. We brought the bill to the floor, and we covered virtually every aspect of our broken immigration system, start to finish. It wasn't easy, but we covered it all. The bill passed on the floor of the Senate. It got 68 votes. We had 14 Republicans joining the Democrats in passing the bill. It was supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It was supported by the labor unions, the faith community. Grover Norquist, one of the most conservative Republicans in our country, supported it publicly and said it was a good idea, and we passed it.

We sent it to the House of Representatives 1 year ago. What has happened to comprehensive immigration reform since we sent it 1 year ago to the House of Representatives? Nothing. Nothing. They refuse to call up the bill for consideration.

So when Members come to the floor and talk about how broken our immigration system is, I agree. Many of us tried to fix it, and we did it the way we

should have—in a bipartisan fashion, give and take, compromise.

We are sending, under this new bill, more enforcement to the border between Texas and Mexico than we have ever seen before. I said somewhat jokingly that the people at the border can reach out and touch hands, there will be so many of them—figuratively—at our border. That was the price the Republicans insisted on: border enforcement. All right. What we insisted on was to take the 11 million undocumented in America today, and if they have been here for at least 2 years, give them a chance. Let them come forward, register with the United States who they are, where they live, where they work, who is in their household. Let them pay their taxes, let them pay a fine, and let them learn English. If they do those things, we will do a criminal background check to make sure they are no threat to anyone in this country, and we will watch them. We will watch them for 13 years—13 years. Then they have a chance at legalization.

That is what our bill says. They go to the back of the line and they wait 13 years while they pay their fines. It is tough. Some of them will not make it to the end of the road, but it is there. It gives them a chance.

So when Members come to the floornd criticize our current immigration system, I say to them, there was a repair to that system, there was a fix to that system. It passed the Senate 1 year ago and Speaker BOEHNER refuses to call it to the floor of the House. I don't know why.

Well, I do know why: Because it would pass. There would be enough Republicans joining Democrats to pass it and we would finally have done something on the issue of immigration.

Now we have before us a resolution by the senior Senator from Texas and he suggests we should take it up. The first part of the resolution says the President has to make it clear the DACA Executive order does not apply to the new people coming across the border. Well, that is a fact. Those who are coming across the border today can't qualify to become legal in the United States—not under any existing Executive order or under the proposed comprehensive immigration reform we passed in the Senate. They can't become citizens. The President saying it personally? I am sure the President would say it personally because he sent the Vice President out to Central America to visit the countries and tell the leaders there: There is a mistake if your people believe they can stay in this country legally. They cannot.

Secondly, he said we have to discourage this migration. I am for that. Who isn't for that? We need to discourage the exploitation of these children and their families and do it in every manner possible. So there is nothing in that suggestion that I think isn't already being done.

The third thing is to fully enforce existing law. The point I tried to make to the Senator from Texas is the President is fully enforcing existing laws. If people want to change the laws, let's have that debate, but to argue the President is not enforcing existing laws is not correct. He is. Those laws may need to be changed or addressed, but he is dealing with them.

I wish to say a word, if I can, about an issue which has come up on the floor and one that is near and dear to my heart. It was 13 years ago when I got a call to my Chicago office. There was a Korean-American mother who had an 18-year-old daughter who was a musical prodigy. She played classical piano in high school and she had been offered a scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music. Her family was a poor immigrant family and this was the chance of a lifetime. When the mother and daughter sat down to fill out the application to go to the Manhattan School of Music, there was a question which asked, What is your citizenship? She turned to her mother and asked, What do I put there? And her mother said, I don't know. We brought you here under a visitor's visa when you were 2 years old and we never filed any papers. The daughter said, What are we going to do? The mother said, We will call DURBIN. So they called our office.

We looked into the law and the law was clear. The law was clear. This 18-year-old girl under our law had to leave the United States for 10 years and then apply to come back in. Where was she going to go? Her family was here. So the mother said to me, What can we do? I told her, Under the law, almost nothing. So that is when I introduced the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act says if a person is brought here as a child, an infant, under the age of 16, and they completed high school and had no criminal record of any substance at all, if they served in our military or went 2 years to college, they had a chance to become an American citizen. That was the DREAM Act. I introduced it 13 years ago—13 years ago. It has passed the House, but it didn't pass the Senate that year. It has passed the Senate as part of comprehensive immigration reform, but it hasn't passed the House.

So several years ago I wrote to the President. I said to the President, with 22 other Senators, Would you consider issuing an Executive order saying you will not deport these DREAM children, these DREAMers—because they are eligible under bills that have passed both the House and Senate—give them a suspension of deportation and allow them to stay in the United States without fear of being deported? He signed the Executive order. So almost 600,000 have stepped forward and they have agreed they will submit the information to our government and, in turn, they will be spared deportation.

They are getting on with their lives. They are going to school and getting jobs. Amazing things are happening for them. There are great stories, and I come to the floor and tell them all the time, but we still don't have the final law. We have the President's Executive order which gives them a break now, but we still don't have the final law to resolve it.

I wish to tell a story about one of those DREAMers today. This is Marie Gonzalez Deel and her parents Marvin and Marina Gonzalez. Marvin and Marina brought Marie from Costa Rica to the United States in 1991 when Maria was 5 years old. They came to the United States legally on temporary visas and settled in Jefferson City, MO. A lawyer said to them, Put down roots, get a job, and you have a chance to become a citizen.

The Gonzalez family bought a house, paid their taxes, and were active members of their church. Marvin was a mail courier for the Missouri Governor. Marina taught Spanish at a local school, and Maria was at the top of her high school class. They thought they had done everything right, but then Maria's family was placed in deportation proceedings. The community of Jefferson City was angry that a good family such as this who was part of their community was facing deportation. They rallied around them.

I first met Marie in 2005. She was one of the first DREAMers to tell her story publicly. Back then it was a pretty courageous thing to do. It still is. At my request, the Department of Homeland Security granted her a stay of deportation, but 9 years ago Maria's parents were deported back to Costa Rica.

In 2008, Marie graduated from Westminster College in Missouri with a degree in political science and business, but her parents couldn't be there to see her. They had been deported back to Costa Rica. In 2009, Marie married her college sweetheart and planned a second ceremony in Costa Rica so her parents could be a part of it. On Thanksgiving, 2010, she and her husband flew to Costa Rica. As my colleagues can see from this picture, they were elated to see one another for the first time in 5 years.

Just a few hours later, Marvin, her father, who had prostate cancer, collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital. He passed away later that same day—the day this photograph was taken. Luckily, they got to see him before he passed away. The family held a funeral the next day and carried on with the Costa Rica wedding the following day with an empty chair at the head of the table where Marie's father would have been seated.

Today Marie is the proud mother of an 11-month-old baby girl, Araceli. In March 2014, Marie became a citizen of the United States. Here is what she wrote to me in a letter:

I was very blessed and thankful to get the opportunity to stay in the United States on a temporary visa to be able to finish my education, get a job, find my soul mate, and eventually become a citizen, though at the cost of not spending that time with my family and feeling alone for so long. My family was torn apart when I was 18 and will never be able to be reunited. My immigration

struggle continues until the day I can once again have my mom at my side. I hope other families don't have to endure this pain.

There are 11 million stories in America, many of them just like this. Hardworking men and women, law-abiding families, viable parts of our churches and our communities, who had the courage to leave everything behind and come to this great Nation. Those of us who are immigrants to this country, which includes the Presiding Officer and myself—at least my mother—thank our lucky stars we were given this chance. My mother was an immigrant to this country and her son is a U.S. Senator from Illinois. She was brought here at the age of 2. Her naturalization certificate is in my office upstairs. I am very proud of it. It is a reminder to me and a reminder to anyone who visits me that this is a nation of immigrants. We are a nation that thrives with the diversity of our immigration and the energy they bring, the courage they bring, leaving everything behind to come to this country. That is the family of the Presiding Officer, and that was my family. That is our story, but that is America's story. That is who we are.

Have we reached the point where we cannot even discuss future immigration in the House of Representatives? Have we reached a point where we cannot even bring the matter to the floor for a vote? Are we going to ignore what that means to this family and millions just like them, what it means to the thousands of kids presenting themselves at the border?

We are better than that. America is better than that. When we embrace our diversity, when we embrace immigration as part of who we are in America, we will be stronger for it and not just in the creation of new businesses and jobs. These immigrants are some of the hardest working people in America. They take the toughest jobs that a lot of Americans would not touch, but they know that is what an immigrant does.

What is their dream? That their babies, their sons and daughters, are going to have a better life. Thank goodness that story has been repeated over and over and over. That defines who we are in America.

Now—1 year later—the House of Representatives is about to throw up its hands and walk away from even addressing immigration issues. What a heartbreaking situation. What an abdication of responsibility.

I know there is a partisan difference between the House and the Senate, but I honestly believe that if the Speaker had the political courage to call the comprehensive immigration bill—the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate—we would find enough Republican House Members who would stand and vote with the Democrats and pass it. Sure, there will be critics of the Speaker—he shouldn't have done it—but that is what leadership calls for, for the Speaker to have that courage and get it done. I hope he will.

One year is long time to wait—and for these families, years and years, some of them with broken dreams that will never be fulfilled, families who have been split up and try to survive. But that is our responsibility, not just for DREAMers but for our country, to make sure we renew this commitment to our diversity and to immigration.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of one of the Senate's most towering figures, Senator Howard Baker.

The Senate sends its sincere condolences to the family of Senator Baker. In particular, we want to pass along our deep sympathies to his wife Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker. Many of us served alongside Nancy in the Senate, and we know this must be a difficult moment for her.

Senator Baker was a true pathbreaker. He served as Tennessee's first popularly elected Republican Senator since Reconstruction. He served as America's first Republican majority leader since the time of Eisenhower. He served his Nation with distinction as a member of the U.S. Navy, as Chief of Staff to President Reagan, and as our country's Ambassador to Japan.

Senator Baker truly earned his nickname, the ''Great Conciliator.'' I know he will be remembered with fondness by Members of both political parties.

Again, let me express the Senate's sympathies to the Baker family. He will be missed by the Senate and by his country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, as the distinguished Republican leader has said, this body—the U.S. Senate—has lost a member of its family, Tennessean Howard Baker.

We know of his long and distinguished career. He served three terms in the Senate. He served as minority leader and ended his career as majority leader. He was an earnest man and worked with any and all Members of this body in passing legislation for the good of America.

As the Republican leader has mentioned, he worked under the direction of President George W. Bush as Ambassador to Japan. He was President Reagan's Chief of Staff. He was someone who could do everything.

He was well liked by Democrats and Republicans. He was a fine man. I did not know him as well as my colleague the Republican leader or of course the two sitting Tennessee Senators.

He enjoyed an illustrious career in public service and it was accomplished, everyone said, by his hard work. He loved foreign affairs and did a great job. He was motivated by his heartfelt desire to do good in the world. Our thoughts go to his family and his wife, whom I had the good fortune to serve with.

I do say this: The two fine men who now serve in the Senate from Tennessee, I am confident, learned a lot from Howard Baker because the senior Senator from Tennessee is also a person who wants to try to work things out. The junior Senator from Tennessee and I have had many conversations. I believe he also wants to be someone who works things out.

So my sympathy goes to Senator Baker's family and friends, especially the two Senators from Tennessee, who I am sure are heartbroken as a result of the loss of their mentor, friend, one of the great people to come out of Tennessee, and there have been plenty.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak very briefly this afternoon to acknowledge a hero. I come to the floor just after the announcement has been made about a leader in the Senate, Senator Baker. While I did not have the privilege of serving at the same time as he, my father did. They were close friends, not only Senator Baker but Senator Kassebaum. My heart, my thoughts go out to the family. The contributions clearly from Senator Baker on so many different levels are so greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT ROGER D. SPARKS

Madam President, I would like to spend just about 5 minutes this afternoon speaking of another hero, and this is a man who has demonstrated above and beyond his commitment, his service to the United States. I would like to speak about MSgt Roger D. Sparks.

It is my duty as a Pararescueman to save lives and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. The things I do, that others may live.

''The things I do, that others may live''—this is the solemn oath by which all pararescue airmen pledge their allegiance and dedicate their service to our country. It is the sacred creed of a most honorable profession.

Alaskans are extremely proud of the exceptionally heroic achievements of the Combat Search and Rescue Airmen assigned to the 176th Wing in the Alaska Air National Guard. These airmen embody the core values of the Air

Force—integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all they do—and are undoubtedly the best our country has to offer.

The National Guard Bureau recently confirmed that the rescue squadrons of the 176th Wing comprise the busiest Combat Search and Rescue unit in the entire U.S. Air Force. This of course brings great pride to us as Alaskans. These brave men and women risk their lives every day so others may live, and I am honored to thank them for their service and recognize the extraordinary bravery of one of their own.

I am pleased to honor one of these heroic pararescue airmen, specifically a parajumper—or a PJ—one MSgt Roger D. Sparks from the 212th Rescue Squadron out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. In the near future, the Air Force will award Sergeant Sparks with the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in combat during a daring, lifesaving rescue in the face of extreme danger in Afghanistan on November 14, 2010.

On that day, Sergeant Sparks—pictured here; the gentleman in the background; there he is with his pararescue team—responded to cries of help from an Army platoon pinned down on all sides by a fierce and coordinated Taliban assault.

What started as a relatively routine rescue mission—and routine by their standards is still extremely heroic by any normal standard—this rescue mission quickly broke down into a dire situation that claimed the lives of five U.S. soldiers but could have been an absolutely catastrophic loss of life had it not been for the bravery and selfless actions of Sergeant Sparks and his team.

At the time of this rescue, the PJ team had been providing dedicated medical evacuation support for the 101st Airborne unit during Operation Bulldog Bite. This was a coalition offensive which was aimed at driving the enemy out of the Watapur Valley in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan near its eastern border with Pakistan.

Throughout the 5-day operation, the team rescued 49 casualties and executed 30 hoist operations, most of which were done while they were exposed to enemy fire. The most significant of all these missions though took place on November 14.

To paraphrase the account from Sergeant Sparks' team commander, Capt. Koa Bailey, what began as a relatively routine rescue operation for two wounded and one deceased soldier quickly turned into anything but routine. As the rescue team approached the battle zone and took on fire, they quickly realized the situation was rapidly deteriorating for the U.S. soldiers on the ground.

According to Captain Bailey, a different operator came on the radio, indicating that the first operator was hit. You could hear the fear in the guy's voice. While we were listening it went from two to six wounded. So with complete disregard for their own safety, Captain Bailey and Sergeant Sparks were lowered into the battle amidst a hail of enemy fire.

It was later determined that the hoist line used to lower them into combat was actually even struck by several rounds. As soon as their boots hit the ground, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded less than 20 feet away, knocking both airmen to the ground. Quickly gathering themselves, Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey took charge of the beleaguered platoon who were trapped in a furious, chaotic fight.

Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey were on their own to handle the situation the best they could, with extremely limited first aid equipment and no ground artillery support. Over the next 5 hours, as bombs hammered enemy positions and bullets spattered against the rocks, Sergeant Sparks abandoned cover to locate, consolidate, and treat the wounded.

According to his team commander, Sergeant Sparks selflessly exposed himself to destructive enemy fire, in order to save American lives, competently handling the treatment of nine patients during the worst possible mass casualty situation.

Taken from the narrative:

When Sergeant Sparks exhausted his medical supplies, he improvised using belts, T-shirts or boot strings in a desperate attempt to keep his patients alive. After assembling all the casualties in a central location, Sergeant Sparks gathered body armor and positioned it around the helpless soldiers to protect and shield them from enemy fire. Repeatedly returning to the most critically wounded, Sergeant Sparks performed vital medical procedures in a deliberate process to ensure that each of the solders received continued care and attention until airlift arrived.

He feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist-sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs, and arterial bleeders with extremely limited medical supplies and only the light of the moon piercing the darkness of the remote mountaintop. Upon return of evacuation aircraft, Sergeant Sparks directed the hoisting of the most critically injured and briefed the crews on each casualty's injuries and medical requirements, choosing to remain behind until the last man departed.

Sergeant Spark's quick and composed actions ensured nine solders received medical care as quickly as possible amidst constant enemy fire and despite extremely limited resources. Sergeant Sparks' leadership and courageous actions saved lives and allowed the remainder of the infantry platoon to continue with their assigned mission. His extraordinary efforts under direct fire and in immediate danger to his own life resulted in saving four American lives and one host nation civilian as well as returning four soldiers killed in action to their families.

Tragically, the fierce battle ultimately claimed the lives of five solders that day. All told, only eight soldiers of the platoon involved in the 6-hour battle were left with no visible wounds. However, if it were not for the courage and selfless action of Sergeant Sparks, Captain Bailey, and the entire rescue team, the loss of life would have been much higher.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor Sergeant Sparks' brave teammates, who also disregarded their own personal safety throughout their support of Operation Bulldog Bite so that others might live. These men are: SSgt Aaron Parcha, SSgt Jimmy Settle, SSgt Ted Sierocinski, TSgt Brandon Hill, MSgt Brandon Stuemke, SMSgt Christopher ''Doug'' Widener, Capt. Marcus Maris, and Capt. Koaalii Bailey.

There were many heroes on that day, including these pararescuemen and the soldiers that were engaged in battle. But I am particularly honored to congratulate MSgt Roger Sparks on the award of the Silver Star and thank him and his family for their dedicated and selfless service to our Nation.

As with all the members of the 176th Wing, I am absolutely in awe of his achievement, eternally grateful for his service, and sincerely proud to have him serving in the great State of Alaska.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of Master Sergeant Sparks' Silver Star Medal citation be printed in the RECORD.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR TO ROGER D. SPARKS

Master Sergeant Roger D. Sparks distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States as a Pararescue Jumper assigned to the 212th Rescue Squadron in the Watapur Valley, Afghanistan on 14 November 2010. On that date, Sergeant Sparks responded to a call in support of Operation BULLDOG BITE and the Army's 101st Airborne Division. While in the air, circling the objective, the ground situation grew extremely hostile and the number of casualties increased from two to six. As a result of the increased fighting in the area, Sergeant Sparks' team took the lead position for the evacuation mission. With limited information regarding the ground situation, Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey began their 40 foot descent from the helicopter via a hoist to the ground and immediately began taking enemy fire. Bullets flew by the two pararescuers and the lowering cable was hit three times while they dangled in the air. They yelled for rapid descent and the flight engineer lowered them to the ground with enemy rounds flying all around. Upon reaching the ground, the pair was assaulted with a rocket propelled grenade. Exploding just 20 feet away, the blast knocked them both off their feet. As the gunner engaged the enemy with danger close rounds, Sergeant Sparks ran approximately 70 yards uphill, to take cover. As he approached the tree, it was blown to pieces by another enemy fired rocket propelled grenade. Still under intense enemy fire, with bombs hammering danger close enemy positions, Sergeant Sparks abandoned cover to provide aid to the wounded. Despite continued enemy fire and with no concern for his personal safety, Sergeant Sparks immediately performed lifesaving measures for nine wounded Soldiers. He feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs, and arterial bleeders with limited medical supplies and only the light of the moon. Upon return of evacuation aircraft, Sergeant Sparks directed evacuation of the injured while briefing crews on each casualty's injuries and

medical needs; choosing to remain behind until the last man departed. His extraordinary efforts under direct, immediate danger to his own life resulted in saving four American lives, one Host Nation civilian and returning four Soldiers killed in action to their families. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Sparks has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to speak about the missing girls from Nigeria who on the 73rd day are still held in captivity. But before I do, as a Senator I would like to express my sorrow to hear about the passing of one of the great Senators, Howard Baker of Tennessee.

Many Senators will come to the floor to extol what a great Senator he was, what a great leader he was. I also want to take a moment to express my sympathy to his widow, another Senator, Senator Nancy Kassebaum. When I came to the Senate, there was only one other woman, and that was Senator Nancy Kassebaum, then representing the great State of Kansas. She was a great friend to me. We served on the HELP Committee. We worked together over many years. Then Senator Kassebaum retired.

She thought she was going back to Kansas, but she found herself in the arms of Howard Baker. We watched a love story unfold that was so endearing to many of us. Senator Ted Kennedy and I were invited to the wedding of Howard Baker and Nancy Kassebaum. After the vows there was a beautiful reception and they played the music. Howard and Nancy twirled and whirled around the floor. Then they turned to the crowd. Ted Kennedy and I rushed out. I grabbed Howard, he grabbed Nancy, and we did the bipartisan boogie through the night.

Those were the days that one remembers. That is the kind of spirit the Senate had. That is the kind of spirit that Senator Howard Baker had—that you could argue, you could debate, and so on, but deep down the Senate should be the saucer that cools irrational passions of the time. He was a great leader. He created this atmosphere of being able to come together and solve problems. So whether it was on the Senate floor or whether it was on the dance floor, he really spoke about the need for bipartisanship. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker is exactly the same way.

So remembering with such fondness, we want to express our condolences about him and certainly to her as just one woman to another.

NIGERIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

I also come to the floor today to talk about another sadness, the sadness about the fact that the Nigerian school girls who were abducted by Boko Haram continue to be held in captivity. I come to the floor to say that just because it is not in the headline does not mean that these girls are not still in danger for what has happened to them.

We need to continue to speak up and speak out. That is not to minimize Iraq. That is not to minimize Iran. This is not to minimize all of the other problems facing the world. But we all had Web sites and hashtags and so on saying: Bring our girls back home. I am here today saying to Boko Haram: We have not forgotten. We are proud that our President sent 80 troops to Chad to assist in the effort to locate these kidnapped girls.

We understand that there continues to be the search effort. We do not want it to be a recovery effort. We need it to be a rescue effort. These girls were kidnapped. It is despicable. It is unacceptable. They are threatening to sell these girls into trafficking. Now after holding them for 73 days, I have no idea what they have had to endure.

It goes on. They are continuing to kidnap children. They are kidnapping girls, some as young as 3 and 4. That was the other day. They are also kidnapping little boys. What kind of organization is this? Now, in response to the violence there, I know we, the women of the Senate, signed a letter to President Obama asking for international sanctions against Boko Haram, and that they be added to the U.N. Al Qaeda sanctions list. The United Nations actually acted. They actually acted promptly. So now they are on the terrorist list. We need to take all of the appropriate actions that support the sanctions that go with it.

I am hopeful we can find these girls. But we cannot stop our advocacy for them, for close to 100 girls, and now for the new children that have been kidnapped—boys as well as girls.

We need to be able to take all necessary international steps that are legal to be able to rescue them and bring them home. Now this terrible, terrible situation has also generated the conversation about the education of children around the world, particularly girls. For some reason, there are those around the world who do not want to see girls get a basic education. Malala, who wrote her book about it, took a bullet wound in her brain because she wanted to go to school, because she wanted to learn to read. As she said: One child, one book at a time, we can change the world.

We have put money in the Federal checkbook in foreign ops to really help with the education of the children around the world. Right now there are 62 million girls throughout the world who are not in school. They are not in school for two reasons. They are not in school because of the lack of capacity, like books and teachers, and they are not in school because of the bigotry against them.

We need to do something. I know that we are moving towards a vote. I say to Boko Haram: Let these girls go. Let's bring them back home. I say for those who are searching for them: Do not lose heart. We have got to deal with that. But we also have to come to grips with the fact that we cannot let millions of girls around the world not have access to education. Education is as important as water. We need water to live. You need education to make a life for yourself.

We look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle. We hope to move the foreign ops bill that has money in the Federal checkbook to do this. When we return from the break I will have more to say. I hope it will be: Thank God we found them and we brought them back to their mothers and fathers.

Millions of these girls who fight for their right to attend school are risking their lives. Facing harassment, threats, and even violence to get an education and have the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Additionally girls who are in school often do not have access to adequate supplies needed to do their work, lack basic bathroom facilities, and that provide them security and safety.

They lack trained teachers and adequate learning environments.

This is unacceptable. We must make a real effort to address this far-reaching global crisis.

This kidnapping of the Nigerian school girls also illustrates the horrifying reality of human trafficking.

Over 20 million people throughout the world are victims of human trafficking.

This is something that we cannot accept.

The U.S. Government is committed to addressing this problem.

I am happy that the State Department has announced that USAID will be launching a new program called ''Let Girls Learn''.

''Let Girls Learn'' provides $231.6 million for new programs to support primary and secondary education and safe learning:

In Nigeria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Jordan, and Guatemala.

Making sure that girls receive an education needs to be a priority for all of us.

When girls are educated their families and communities are better off.

Girls who receive basic education are three times less likely to contract HIV.

Education helps women increase their income, allowing them to better support their families and contribute to their nation's economy and overall success.

The United States must continue to be a leader in the fight to make sure girls across the world are able to receive an education in a safe environment.

I also call on all nations to make this a priority and to put their words of support into action, and for governments around the world to make every effort to ensure that children can receive an education in a safe environment.

Education is a basic human right that should not be deprived regardless of where you live or where you come from.

Making sure that all boys and girls have access to basic education is something I have always fought for and something I will continue to fight for.

NOMINATION OF STUART E. JONES, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

NOMINATION OF ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

NOMINATION OF KAREN DYNAN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF ESTHER PUAKELA KIA'AINA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

NOMINATION OF VINCENT G. LOGAN TO BE SPECIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NOMINATION OF JO EMILY HANDELSMAN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq; Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior; and Jo Emily Handelsman, of Connecticut, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

VOTE ON JONES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Jones nomination.

Mr. CORKER. I yield back all time.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq?

Mr. CORKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 216 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Ayotte	Grassley	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Barrasso	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Heller	Reed
Boozman	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Hoeven	Risch
Brown	Inhofe	Roberts
Cantwell	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johanns	Rubio
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Chambliss	Kaine	Schumer
Coats	King	Scott
Collins	Kirk	Sessions
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Corker	Landrieu	Shelby
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Crapo	Lee	Tester
Cruz	Levin	Thune
Donnelly	Manchin	Toomey
Durbin	Markey	Udall (NM)
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Feinstein	McCaskill	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wicker
Graham	Murkowski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Coburn	Udall (CO)
Begich	Cochran	
Burr	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BEECROFT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Beecroft nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DYNAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Dynan nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON KIA'AINA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Kia'aina nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LOGAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Logan nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HANDELSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Handelsman nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jo Emily Handelsman, of Connecticut, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to unavoidable family commitments, I was unable to cast votes relative to rollcall vote No. 215 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit and rollcall vote No. 216 on the confirmation of Stuart E. Jones to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted yea in each instance.●

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 487

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the facts regarding the ongoing IRS scandal that the Obama administration refuses to investigate, refuses to prosecute, refuses to address with honesty and integrity. I want to talk about the facts we know and the facts we don't know, and how we as the Senate can demonstrate fidelity to law and the integrity of the U.S. Government.

Let's talk about what we know.

We know that more than 1 year ago on May 14, 2013, the inspector general of the Treasury Department said that beginning in 2010 the IRS had improperly targeted conservative citizen groups, tea party groups, pro-Israel groups, and pro-life groups. The day the inspector general's report was made public, President Obama had described what occurred as ''intolerable and inexcusable.'' As President Obama put it: ''Americans have a right to be angry about it, and I am angry about it.''

Well, if President Obama was speaking the truth when he said over a year ago that Americans have a right to be angry about this, then today after over a year of obstruction of justice, of refusing to investigate or prosecute what happened under President Obama's own standard, the Americans have a right to be far more than angry about it.

Likewise, the very same day the inspector general report came out, Attorney General Eric Holder said the IRS targeting the conservative groups was ''outrageous and unacceptable.'' That was more than a year ago.

What has happened in the year and 2 months that have passed since then? Although both the President and the Attorney General profess outrage and anger, not a single person has been indicted—not a single person. Although both the President and the Attorney General said they would investigate this matter, it has been publicly reported that no indictments are planned. In fact, President Obama went on national television during the Super Bowl and categorically stated, ''There was not even a smidgeon of corruption to be found at the IRS.''

How far we had come from the day the scandal broke when he said he was angry and the American people had a right to be angry. Fast forward a few months later and he goes on television and says there is not a smidgeon of corruption.

That is a remarkable statement for the President to have made, because Attorney General Eric Holder 4 days earlier had told the Senate Judiciary Committee that there was an ongoing investigation being conducted at the IRS.

President Obama's comments and Eric Holder's comments are facially inconsistent. Either Eric Holder was telling the truth, that there is, in fact, a meaningful ongoing investigation, or President Obama was telling the truth when he said conclusively there is not a smidgeon of corruption. One or the other was not telling the truth or perhaps President Obama was simply prejudging the investigation. Perhaps President Obama was simply attempting to influence its outcome, making clear that the outcome desired from the White House is that there is not a smidgeon of corruption. What happened to the American people having a right to be angry? Now the President is instead telling investigators the conclusion they should reach.

Regardless, it is beyond dispute that the Obama administration, the Justice Department, has not held anyone accountable for this gross abuse of power.

In a hearing in January of this year, Attorney General Eric Holder refused to answer whether even a single victim of the wrongful targeting has been interviewed.

Let me repeat that. The victims who were targeted wrongly by the IRS—the citizens—for exercising their political free speech rights, the Attorney General refused to answer if they had even bothered to interview any of those citizens.

We also note some of the emails that have been made public give the appearance that the Department of Justice may have been directly involved in the illegal targeting of citizen groups based on their political views.

Most stunningly, we know that the lead attorney investigating this matter is a major Democratic donor and a major donor to President Obama. Indeed, she has given over $6,000 to President Obama and Democrats in recent years.

No reasonable person would trust John Mitchell to investigate Richard Nixon. Yet the Obama administration is telling the American people the investigation into the wrongful targeting of conservatives will be led by a major Obama Democratic donor. That is contemptuous. It is contemptuous of the law; it is contemptuous of the American people. One would think that if you appoint a major Obama donor to lead the investigation, it is likely that the victims would not be interviewed, that no one would be indicted. And, wonder of wonders, what has happened? The victims have not been interviewed and no one has been indicted.

But that is not all. We have seen Lois Lerner, the head of the IRS office that illegally targeted conservative citizens, go before Congress and repeatedly plead the Fifth. When a senior government official takes the Fifth, that is an action that should be taken very seriously. Yet it seems in this town partisan politics trumps fidelity to law. What Lois Lerner said in the House of Representatives by pleading the Fifth is effectively standing there saying, ''If I answer your question, I may well implicate myself in criminal conduct.'' That is chilling.

Let me note with sadness that the Democratic Members of this Chamber seem to have no concern about a senior IRS official pleading the Fifth repeatedly because truthfully answering the questions could implicate her in criminal conduct.

Throughout it all Americans have been told that the Obama administration would find out what happened and would take the necessary actions.

Indeed, the new head of the IRS, Commissioner John Koskinen, promised as much. Now we find out that this new Commissioner is also a major donor to President Obama and Democratic causes. This new Commissioner of the IRS has given nearly $100,000 to the Democratic Party, including $7,300 to President Obama. What fairminded person would entrust not one but two major Obama donors to investigate how the IRS used political power to go after the enemies of President Obama? Not one but two—the lead lawyers in the Department of Justice heading up the noninvestigation that is not interviewing the victims, that is not indicting anyone, and the head of the IRS giving nearly $100,000 to Democratic causes.

We received even more striking news, that Commissioner Koskinen tells us the IRS lost Lois Lerner's emails. Oops, sorry. The dog ate my homework.

Madam President, if you or I tried that in our IRS returns, they wouldn't accept that excuse from a citizen. We are told the hard drive crashed and the documents are irretrievable under any circumstances. We also know the IRS didn't follow the law when it failed to

report the hard drive crash that we are told occurred. But make no mistake, these emails haven't just been lost. These emails have been deleted, taped over, and the hard drive physically destroyed ccording to public news reports. This is Rosemary Woods, when you have Federal Government officials destroying evidence. In the ordinary parlance that is called obstruction of justice. The hard drive magically collapses, magically crashes, and is physically destroyed right after the investigation begins and, I would remind you, the investigation that has resulted in Lois Lerner pleading the Fifth twice.

We are supposed to believe that the emails from the IRS officials in charge of the division that illegally targeted political organizations and has repeatedly pleaded the Fifth to avoid incriminating herself, that her emails have simply vanished innocuously. It happens. It happens to people in the middle of illegal acts. Their records magically disappear right when the investigators are seeking to discover them.

This is an outrage. This is a scandal. This is an insult to anyone concerned about the rule of law, and no one in the Senate, regardless of political party, should stand by and accept this.

But it doesn't end there.

On Wednesday it was reported that Lois Lerner flagged a speaking invitation for Republican Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY for examination. Senator GRASSLEY is the highest ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee who has been a strong and powerful voice for accountability at the Department of Justice. It is curious that she would be so eager to subject Senator GRASSLEY for extra scrutiny based on a speaking invitation.

Right now, today, the White House is in control of Democrats. There will come a time when Democrats no longer control the White House and the administration. I would ask every Democratic Member of this body, how comfortable are you with the precedent that the IRS can single out Democratic Senators who might disagree with the President's political position? The targeting of CHUCK GRASSLEY, the singling out of CHUCK GRASSLEY, ought to trouble every single Member of this body.

On Tuesday it was reported that the IRS agreed to pay $50,000 in damages to the National Organization for Marriage because the IRS admittedly unlawfully released confidential information of members of that group to its political opposition.

Let me repeat that. IRS officials have publicly admitted—this is not inference, this is not suggestion, this is what they have admitted—that they leaked personal tax information for the purpose of intimidating a conservative group to the political opposition of that group. That is textbook abuse of power. And I would note the $50,000 fine—which, by the way, has been paid by U.S. taxpayers—the $50,000 fine does nothing to address the partisan political corruption at the IRS, the abuse of power, or the coverup. A fine does not signal the problem has been fixed.

I would note, by the way, where are the Democratic Members of this body standing and saying it is wrong for the IRS to illegally hand over personal information from individual taxpayers for partisan purposes to their political opponents?

I want to underscore that the IRS has admitted they did this and paid a $50,000 fine and the Democratic Members of this body are apparently not troubled at all. If they are troubled, they keep their troubles very quiet and to themselves.

Americans need a guarantee that the IRS will never be used again to target an administration's political enemy.

When a Republican President, Richard Nixon, attempted to use the IRS to target his political enemies, it was wrong. It was an abuse of power, and he was rightfully condemned on both sides of the aisle. Both Democrats and Republicans stood up to President Nixon when he attempted to use the IRS to target his political enemies and said: This is wrong.

The Obama administration didn't just attempt to do so, it succeeded. It carried out a concerted effort and targeted those who were perceived to be political enemies of the President and targeted those individual citizens. The administration then put two major Democratic donors in charge of the investigation and covered up the truth, including conveniently losing emails from the central player in this figure who has twice pleaded the Fifth.

It was wrong when Richard Nixon tried to use the IRS to target his political enemies, and it was wrong when the Obama administration tried and succeeded to do the same. The difference is when Richard Nixon did so, Republicans had the courage to stand up to Members of their own party. It saddens me that there is not a single Democratic Member of this body who has had the courage to stand up to their own party and say: This abuse of power—using the IRS to target citizens for political beliefs—is wrong.

We need a special prosecutor with meaningful independence to make sure justice is served and that our constitutional rights to free speech, to assembly, and to privacy are protected.

It saddens me to say that the U.S. Department of Justice, under Attorney General Eric Holder, has become the most partisan Department of Justice in the history of our country. I say this as a former associate deputy attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice. I can tell you there are Democratic alumni across this country who are saddened and heartbroken to see the Department of Justice becoming effectively an arm of the Democratic National Committee.

IRS officials have stonewalled at every turn, and we should not wait a single minute to put an end to the intimidation and bullying of the American people. These are not the actions of a government that respects its citizens. We need to restore that respect, that government officials work for the people and not the other way around.

The Department of Justice has a storied history. There is a history of attorneys general standing up to political pressure, even against the Presidents who have appointed them. Listen, political pressure in this town is nothing new and attorneys general throughout history have had a special mettle of being willing to look into the eyes of the President who appointed them and willing to say: I care more about the rule of law than any partisan allegiance I might have.

When President Richard Nixon faced charges of abusing government power for partisan ends, his attorney general Elliot Richardson, a Republican, appointed Archibald Cox as special prosecutor. Likewise, when President Bill Clinton faced charges of ethical impropriety, his attorney general Janet Reno, a Democrat, appointed Robert Fiske as independent counsel. Sadly, the current attorney general has refused to live up to that bipartisan tradition of independence, of integrity, and of fidelity to law.

I have repeatedly called on Attorney General Eric Holder to remove the investigation from the hands of a major Obama donor and put it instead in the hands of a special prosecutor with meaningful independence who, at a minimum, is not a major Democratic donor. Even the very slightest respect for the rule of law would suggest that the attorney general should not be part and parcel of the political and partisan coverup.

Therefore, in a few moments I intend to ask for unanimous consent to call up a Senate resolution expressing the opinion of the Senate that the Attorney General should appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute—if the facts support—the IRS targeting of Americans and its potential coverup of those actions.

When I asked the Attorney General whether the Department of Justice investigated the direct involvement of political appointees at the White House—up to and including the President—Attorney General Holder refused to answer that question. That is always the hardest thing for an attorney general to do: Ask the question that raises partisan peril. That is why attorneys general are supposed to be nonpartisan and owe their fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of this United States and to the American people.

The House of Representatives has passed a similar resolution to the one I am submitting. It was sponsored by Congressman JIM JORDAN of Ohio on May 7, 2014. The resolution passed in the House 250 to 168. Twenty-six Democrats voted in favor of the resolution.

Why is it that Democrats in the House of Representatives can muster up the courage to stand up to the partisan pressure from the White House.

Yet in the Senate we hear crickets chirping. This used to be the body praised for its independence and for its ability to stand up to abuse of power.

Just today the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed the Obama administration for the 12th time in the last 2 years in its assertion of overbroad executive authority. This time it asserted that the President unconstitutionally attempted to circumvent the checks and balances of the Constitution by unilaterally appointing recess appointments while the Senate was not in recess.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously, by a vote of 9 to 0, said the President's actions were unconstitutional in that case, and once again, as with the IRS, my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle were silent. How is it there is no longer a Robert Byrd, that there is no longer a Ted Kennedy, that there are no longer any Democrats who will defend the institutional integrity of the Senate? How is it when the Supreme Court concludes unanimously that the President's intrusion on the Senate's constitutional authority is unconstitutional not a single Senate Democrat has the courage to stand up to this President? How is it in the face of a senior IRS official repeatedly pleading the Fifth, how is it in the face of the IRS admitting it wrongfully handed over private personal IRS tax data to the political opponents of a citizens group and paid a $50,000 fine for it, how is it that not a single Democratic Senator does not have the courage to speak up? At what point does it become too much? At what point does it become embarrassing?

Constitutional law professor Jonathan Turley, whom I might note is a liberal and voted for President Obama in 2008, said that President Obama has become the embodiment of the imperial President. He described how Barack Obama has become the President Richard Nixon always wished he could be. I am sorry to say that he has done so with the active aiding and abetting of 55 Democratic Members of this Senate because when Democratic Members of this Senate or any Member of this Senate stands by and allows the President to trample on the rule of law, then any one of us who remains silent is explicit in undermining the Constitution.

This resolution should be unanimous. If the tables were turned and this were a Republican President and a Republican Attorney General had appointed a major Republican donor to lead the investigation into the wrongful targeting of Democrats and destroyed emails and hard drives and publicly admitted to leaking private citizen information to the political opponents of Democrats, the Democratic side of this Chamber would rightly be lighting their hair on fire.

If this were a Republican administration, every media outlet would have banner headlines every single day. I can assure you that at least some Republican Senators would be standing up and saying this abuse of power is wrong.

This resolution should be unanimous because everyone should agree that an investigation should be beyond reproach and should not be handed over to major Democratic donors.

If the allegation—which the report of the inspector general of Treasury has already confirmed in significant respect—is of abuse of government power of the IRS to target citizens for their political beliefs, then you cannot entrust the investigation to someone who is partisan and has a political interest in protecting the party in power. If Attorney General Eric Holder continues to refuse to appoint a special prosecutor, he should be impeached.

When an attorney general refuses to enforce the rule of law, mocks the rule of law, and corrupts the Department of Justice by conducting a nakedly partisan investigation to cover up political wrongdoing, that conduct, by any reasonable measure, constitutes high crimes and misdemeanors.

Attorney General Eric Holder has the opportunity to do the right thing. He can appoint a special prosecutor with meaningful independence who is not a major Obama donor. Yet every time the Attorney General has been called on to do this, he has defiantly said no. In fact, he said in writing in his discretion, no. If Attorney General Eric Holder continues to refuse to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the abuse of power by the IRS against the American people, he should be impeached.

I agree with President Obama when he said on the day this scandal broke, the American people have a right to be angry. If the American people had a right to be angry over a year ago when the scandal broke, the fact that it has now been covered up and the fact that a partisan investigation has refused to begin to scratch the surface of what happened should make the American people more than angry. It should move them to action. It should move them to accountability. It should move them to hold the officials of our government responsible.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 487. I further ask consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, as the chairman of the Finance Committee, which oversees the IRS, I have a question as to whether bringing in a special prosecutor would be a good use of taxpayer money in this case. I am going to spend a few minutes laying out what is actually going on with respect to this matter.

There are already five IRS investigations that have either concluded or are ongoing. There was the original Treasury inspector general audit, in addition to ongoing investigations by four congressional committees, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

The Senate Finance Committee, the committee I chair, has been conducting a bipartisan investigation for more than a year. I repeat: This is a bipartisan investigation. In fact, the committee's report was essentially ready to be released last week when the IRS informed us that some emails were missing because of a hard drive crash. So that colleagues understand just how bipartisan our effort has been, Senator HATCH and I have worked closely on this every step of the way since I had the honor of becoming the chair of the Finance Committee. When we heard of the hard drive problem, the two of us, a Democrat and a Republican, immediately asked the IRS Commissioner to come to my office where we asked pointed questions of Commissioner Koskinen. We didn't wait 10 days. We didn't wait a week. The two of us, a Democrat and a Republican, felt it was an important part of our committee's bipartisan inquiry, so we had Mr. Koskinen come to our office. And this has just been one example—it happens to be very recent—of the bipartisan efforts that have been made looking into this matter.

The Finance Committee staff, Democrats and Republicans, have reviewed over 700,000 pages of documents and interviewed 30 IRS employees. Those interviews were done jointly. We had Democrats and Republicans doing them together. Now, as we continue to look at how this is going to unfold, the Treasury Department Inspector General—that is Mr. Russell George—has agreed to investigate the most recent matter, and he briefed our staff just yesterday on the work plan for getting their investigation done promptly. Once the committee determines what happened with the hard drive crashes, then the committee will, again on a bipartisan basis, move forward with releasing our report—the report that was almost ready to be released when the IRS informed us that the emails were missing because of a hard drive crash and when Senator HATCH and I together brought Mr. Koskinen immediately to my office.

I heard my colleague say that things would be different if this were a Republican administration. Well, I want it understood—I want every Senator to understand this. Senator HATCH and I would be doing exactly what we are doing now, with the same diligence, if it was a Republican administration. That, in my view, is the bottom line, because that is what bipartisanship is

all about. That is the way an important inquiry ought to be handled.

There is nothing of value that a special prosecutor would bring to the table, and it certainly would involve significant cost to American taxpayers. In fact, many of us can remember special prosecutors abusing their power, spending millions of dollars of taxpayer money, and going on for years and years without concluding their investigations. Too often, special prosecutors have turned into lawyers' full employment programs. They ought to be reserved for when there is evidence of criminal wrongdoing inside the government. It would be premature to appoint a special prosecutor with the bipartisan Finance Committee report almost finished.

I will just close by saying I am a pretty bipartisan fellow. In fact, sometimes I get a fair amount of criticism for being too bipartisan. I want it understood this is a bipartisan inquiry that is being done by the book. Senator HATCH and I are looking at these matters together. We talk about it frequently. Those witnesses were interviewed together. We brought Mr. Koskinen in immediately. My view is that it would be premature to appoint a special prosecutor with the bipartisan Finance Committee report almost finished.

If we look at this in terms of what is at issue now, we can bring the facts to light with our own investigators and our own bipartisan inquiry and avoid the special prosecutor disasters of the past.

I object to the Senator's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I thank my friend from Oregon for his impassioned comments. I would note for the RECORD a few things he did not say. My friend from Oregon chose not to say a word about the fact that Lois Lerner, a senior IRS official, has twice pleaded the Fifth in front of the House of Representatives. To that he had not a single response.

My friend from Oregon chose to say not a word to the fact that the IRS singled out Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY for special scrutiny. To that, he said not a word.

My friend from Oregon chose to say not a word to the fact that the IRS has now admitted to illegally handing over private personal information from a citizen group to its political opponents for partisan political purposes, and has paid a $50,000 fine. That is not an allegation. That is not a theory. That is what the IRS has admitted to and paid a $50,000 fine for with taxpayer funds. Yet I am sorry to say my friend from Oregon had not a word to say about that abuse of power.

I mentioned before that from the Democratic Members of this Chamber, when it comes to the abuse of power by the Obama administration, there are crickets chirping.

Now, I am pleased that my friend from Oregon and the Finance Committee has engaged in an investigation of what occurred. We don't know what that investigation will conclude. But I find it interesting that he said it is premature for a special prosecutor. Fourteen months ago was when President Obama said: I am angry and the American people have a right to be angry—14 months ago. Fourteen months and not a single person has been indicted. Fourteen months and most of the victims haven't been interviewed. Fourteen months they have publicly announced they don't intend to indict anyone. Yet, it is premature. If the American people had a right to be angry 14 months ago, which is what President Obama told us, what should we feel 14 months later after partisan stonewalling and obstruction of justice? The American people had a right to be angry.

I would note a Senate committee is conducting an investigation and will issue a report, but the Senate committee can't indict anyone. The Senate committee can't prosecute anyone. My friend from Oregon says it is premature to have a special prosecutor because, apparently, holding people who break the laws, who commit criminal conduct to abuse IRS power to target individual citizens based on their political views—apparently, holding them accountable—is not a priority for a single Democratic member of this Chamber. That saddens me.

It saddens me that we don't have 100 Senators in this room saying, regardless of what party we are in, it is an embarrassment to have this ''investigation''—and I put that word in quotes, because a real investigation involves interviewing the victims; a real investigation involves following the evidence where it leads. I would note my friend from Oregon, in describing the Senate committee's investigation, mentioned that they interviewed some IRS employees, but notably absent from whom he said they interviewed was anyone at the White House, anyone political. Apparently, they were not interviewed. We don't know. But he didn't mention them if they were.

It is an embarrassment that this so-called investigation is led by a partisan Democratic donor who has given over $6,000 to President Obama and Democrats. It is an embarrassment that the IRS obstruction of justice is led by a major Democratic donor who has given nearly $100,000. Every one of us takes an oath to the Constitution. Every one of us owes fidelity to rule of law. When we have the Department of Justice behaving like an arm of the DNC, protecting the political interests of the White House instead of upholding the law, it undermines the liberty of every American. I am saddened that Democratic Members of this Chamber will not stand up and say: I have a higher obligation to the Constitution and the rule of law and the American people than I have to my Democratic Party. That is a sad state of affairs, but it is also a state of affairs that is outraging the American people, that is waking up the American people.

President Obama had it right when he said 14 months ago the American people are right to be angry about this. He was correct. And when elected officials, when appointed officials of the Obama administration mock the rule of law, demonstrate contempt for Congress, and abuse their power against the individual citizenry, against we the people, the people have a natural and immediate remedy that is available in November every 2 years. This November, I am confident the American people will follow the President's advice and demonstrate that they are angry about the abuse of power and even angrier about the partisan coverup in which all 55 Democratic Senators have actively aided and abetted.

If Attorney General Eric Holder is unwilling to appoint a special prosecutor, if he insists on keeping this prosecution in the control of a major Obama donor, then Attorney General Eric Holder should be impeached, because the rule of law matters more than any partisan political problem.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, first of all, let me thank the Senator from Texas for raising this issue of the IRS. I have commented over the last few days that if this was, in fact, a Republican administration that had been engaged in this issue, this would have led every newscast in America. It would have been leading every newscast in America for the last week. It would have been compared to Watergate. Instead, what we have seen is the American news media, by and large, has largely ignored it.

One of the commentators last night on television added up all the minutes they dedicated to a soccer player who bit some other competitor compared to the amount of time they have dedicated to the fact that one of the most powerful agencies of the U.S. Government not just destroyed records, potentially—but even now we have been given news they tried to target a U.S. Senator for an internal audit—and the soccer player won. He got a lot more attention. There was a lot more news coverage paid to the guy who bit somebody than to the issue of the IRS.

So I thank the Senator from Texas for raising it here today before we head to our respective States for the Fourth of July because it is an issue that deserves our attention.

WORLD CUP SOCCER

Mr. RUBIO. There is another issue that deserves our attention. By the way, on the subject of soccer, since I am on it, I will confess I am not an expert on soccer, nor have I, frankly, historically been an enormous fan. To me football means you wear a helmet and some shoulder pads and you run into

each other pretty hard. But I have grown in admiration of the game given the following it has internationally and given the performance of our team, and I wish to congratulate Team USA. Despite losing today's game, they have achieved the honor of advancing into the round of 16 in the World Cup as we all watched and are excited about those prospects and are encouraged about the future of U.S. soccer and our prospects in the world cup.

So congratulations to them, to their families and to all fans of U.S. soccer all over the world and here in Washington cheering them on. If there is one thing that brought us together here this week, it is that, and we are grateful for it.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, there is a topic I would like to discuss before we leave for the Fourth of July recess and return to our States. One is an enormous story in my home State and, in particular, in my hometown of Miami, and that is the ongoing crisis in Venezuela. I have been talking about it for the better part of 3 months with regard to what is occurring there. It is pretty straightforward. There is an authoritarian government in Venezuela that has cracked down on the people in Venezuela, has crushed any sort of political dissent or tried to crush any form of political dissent. If a person is an outspoken critic of the Venezuelan government, they either wind up in jail or in exile.

In fact, the President of Venezuela, someone who won a fraudulent election just a year and a half ago, has now begun to turn on people in his own party when they dare to criticize him.

But the evidence is clear. First of all, the Venezuelan economy today is a disaster. The state of the Venezuela economy today is increasingly reminiscent of what is happening in Cuba: shortages of basic items, the inability to buy a bar of soap or toilet paper or toothpaste. The shortages are extraordinary.

We are talking about one of the richest countries in the hemisphere—a nation blessed with a talented and educated population and with natural resources, and particularly oil—and this guy in charge of that country has ruined Venezuela and its economy. That in and of itself is worthy of condemnation.

But what is even more apparent is how he has cracked down on political dissent in Venezuela. We have documented how over 40 people have now lost their lives in protests on Venezuela—by the way, protests that began when a student was sexually assaulted at a university. They protested the lack of security, and the security forces of Venezuela responded—not by going after the assailants but by going after the student protesters. Since then, opposition leaders have been jailed, Members of the opposition in the Parliament have been removed from their seats, and Venezuela continues to spiral out of control.

There have been gross human rights violations in Venezuela at the direction of the Venezuelan Government by organisms of the Venezuelan Government and extragovernmental organizations as well.

So in light of what is happening in Venezuela, and in light of the fact that so many people who live in Florida are impacted deeply by what is happening in Venezuela—because they are originally from there, because they have family there or because they conduct business there or because they care about what happens in our hemisphere—because of all of these things, not only have I been talking about this issue on the Senate floor but we began to take action.

The first thing we did was we passed a resolution from this Senate—and I thank my colleagues; it passed unanimously—condemning these human rights violations. I know sometimes we sit around here and wonder: What is the point of these resolutions?

They matter. I cannot tell you how many people are aware of what we have done here in the Senate, just speaking out and condemning these violations and making it very clear whose side we are on. We are on the side of the democratic aspirations and the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The second thing we did is we worked through the process here because unlike the way Maduro runs his government in Venezuela, here we have a republic and this Senate is an important part of that republic. We filed a bill to sanction individuals—not the government, not the country—individuals in the Venezuelan Government responsible for these human rights violations. In fact, in the committee I named 25 of them. That piece of legislation—that law—sanctioning the leaders in Venezuela passed the committee almost unanimously with bipartisan support.

Let me take a moment to thank Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman of that committee, for his leadership on this issue and my colleague from Florida BILL NELSON for his leadership on this issue, even though he is not on the committee. When we held a hearing on the issue of Venezuela, he went to the hearing and he attended an event we did in Miami with the Venezuelan community to talk about this reality.

That bill passed out of our committee. In addition to passing out of this committee, a very similar bill passed out of the House under the leadership of Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN. Both the Senate and the House—and they passed it off the floor of the House.

So the Venezuelan sanctions bill is ready for action here on the floor of the Senate. Knowing that it was a noncontroversial issue, that there is almost unanimous support for it, I have attempted to pass this bill by something we call unanimous consent, which basically means that the cloakrooms call the respective offices and they ask all of the Members: We are going to try to pass this bill. Do you have an objection? The reason why we do it that way is so we can save time so we have the time available to debate these other issues that are before us—especially on an issue that is not controversial. We pass a lot of law around here that way.

Unfortunately, there have been some objections—one from each side. I am happy to report that one of those two objections has been removed. It came from the Democratic side. The majority removed their objection. So it appears this bill is ready to move forward, but for the objection of one colleague of ours, who has the right to object, and who, quite frankly, has objections to it that he believes strongly about and we are respectful of.

What I am asking for at this point is—given that objection—when we come back from the recess, I am hoping that one way or another we will get a chance to vote. This is an issue that virtually every Member of the Senate but for one or two—at this point it appears one—is supportive of. I hope we can pass it because it is important. It will matter. This is not sanctions, for example, like the ones we have seen in the past on other countries. These are extremely targeted. These are targeted against individuals in the Venezuelan Government who have directed or carried out gross human rights violations.

They will be impactful because many of these people in the Venezuelan Government who are conducting these human rights violations actually spend their weekends in the United States. They fly on the private jets they bought with stolen money to the United States to stay in their fancy condominiums or their mansions. They shop at our stores. They parade up our streets. And then Monday morning they go back to work full time violating human rights.

So these sanctions will matter. These human rights violators in Venezuela have investments in the United States. In fact, when they steal money from Venezuela, often times they use straw companies and straw purchasers to invest that money in our economy—predominantly in Florida, but also in other places.

There is no reason in the world why they should not be sanctioned for what they have done. There is no reason in the world why we should not be going after these individuals for what they have done.

One of the cornerstones of our foreign policy must always be the protection of human rights anywhere in the world where they are challenged or oppressed. This gives us an opportunity to speak in a clear voice in a part of the world that, quite frankly, both parties have been guilty of neglecting. I have spent plenty of time around here talking about what is going on in Syria and what is going on in Iraq, and that

is a very dangerous issue that is occurring there. The counterterrorism risks that are posed by ISIL in Iraq and Syria are dramatic and deserve a lot of attention. We have spent time on the floor talking about what has happened in Ukraine and Russia's illegal actions with regard to Crimea, and they deserve attention. We have spent some time even talking about the Chinese ambitions in the Asian-Pacific region and their illegitimate territorial claims.

The only thing I am saying is that what happens in the Western Hemisphere matters too—that human rights violations in Venezuela are just as important as human rights violations in Africa or Europe or Asia or any other part of the world. Sometimes I feel as if they do not get the attention they deserve around here.

This is our opportunity to show that this hemisphere is important and that what happens in our hemisphere matters. I want you to know that the people of Venezuela—particularly those students and those who desire a democratic and respectful future—they are watching. Every single time we do something on Venezuela here, we hear it in phone calls, on Twitter, on Facebook, in visits to our office and in emails and in letters. They are watching, they are listening, and they are aware.

What I want people in the world to know and people in the hemisphere to know is that America does not simply care about stability; we also care about democracy and freedom and about human rights. This is our opportunity to put action where our words are.

So I sincerely hope that when we return here in about 8 or 9 days we can find a way forward to get a vote on this. If we are unable to do this through the unanimous consent process, which they call a hotline, my intentions are to come to this floor and offer it as what they call a live unanimous consent, where I will stand here and do what the Senator from Texas just did—or tried to do—with regard to the IRS issue.

I intend to come to this floor and propose this bill and ask for unanimous consent. If someone objects, then we will have a debate about that objection. Should that fail, then I hope we can have a vote scheduled. I promise it will not take any more than 15 minutes—or 10 if you want to limit the vote to 10 minutes. But let's get this done.

This is important. We have worked this the appropriate way. Often times, people come to the floor in the Senate and they pull a bill out of their pocket and say: Let's file it for messaging purposes. This is real. This is impactful. The House has already passed a version of this. Doesn't this issue at least deserve 10 minutes of the Senate's time?

So we are going to try to get this done one more time through unanimous approval. And we are going to work over the next 10 days to hopefully get everyone's support. But if we cannot do it that way, I hope we can schedule a vote on the Senate floor on this bill so we can go after and sanction those criminals in Venezuela who are stealing the money of the Venezuelan people and using the strength and the power of that government to attack their own people. I hope that will be a priority for us when we return. It deserves that attention.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this issue today, and I wish for all my colleagues the next 10 days will be fruitful in your return to your home States, and I look forward to working with you on these issues when we return.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS BUFFER ZONE

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, since 1973, when the Supreme Court decided that a woman's right to choose was constitutionally protected, women's health clinics across the country have been targeted by violence and other criminal activities by extremists.

The crimes are alarming: harassment, arson, acid attacks, obstruction, violent threats, and even murder. Women's safety has been repeatedly put at risk simply for exercising a constitutional right.

In the past 10 years, there have been approximately 75,000 incidents of violence against abortion providers in the United States. That is unacceptable. We should always remember that each of these victims of violence has a name, a family, and a story.

In 1994, a gunman killed two people and wounded five others at two clinics in Massachusetts. One of these victims was 25-year-old Shannon Lowney, a daughter of public schoolteachers, a beloved sister, and a volunteer who worked domestically and internationally with poor families and children.

Shannon worked as a receptionist and Spanish translator at Planned Parenthood in Brookline, MA. She worked there not for the pay but because she fundamentally believed women had a right to affordable health care. She wanted to do her part to ensure that patients at a vulnerable and stressful time in life were greeted with a smile. Five days after Christmas in 1994 she was fatally shot in the neck at a Planned Parenthood clinic by an extremist protester.

Shannon's story is just one of the many tragedies caused by violence against women exercising their rights.

In 2007, after the laws on the books proved inadequate, Massachusetts ensured that there would be fair and balanced laws that created a buffer zone of 35 feet around the entry of reproductive health care facilities.

This law was intended to protect people such as Shannon and the thousands of women and staff who visit and work at clinics.

The buffer zone law worked. Massachusetts women could exercise their fundamental right to health care without running a gauntlet of abuse. According to a survey of reproductive health care centers across the country, a majority of facilities with buffer zones experienced a decrease in criminal activity after the buffer zone was instituted.

Today the Supreme Court of the United States took away those buffer zones of safety when it struck down the Massachusetts buffer zone law, effectively undoing the historic progress we have made in ensuring that women are protected when accessing reproductive health care and exercising their constitutional rights.

Today's Supreme Court ruling puts women at risk simply for exercising their constitutional rights. Shannon's brother Liam visited me on the day that this case was argued before the Supreme Court. Their family is representative of what has happened across this country in terms of the endangerment of women when they seek to exercise their constitutional rights.

So today is a sad day. It is not just a sad day for America but in particular for Shannon's family because they put a lot on the line to ensure that this case was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Court's decision makes it more difficult for States to guarantee women's reproductive rights and more likely that acts of violence and intimidation against women seeking reproductive health care will occur.

With reproductive rights under attack across the country like never before, it is imperative that we ensure the basic safety of all women and staff at Planned Parenthood and other health facilities.

We should be expanding access to safe reproductive health care for women, not restricting it. That is unfortunately what today is going to represent in the history of health care for women in our country.

The Presiding Officer is a national leader on these issues, fighting for the rights of women. I stand with her and with the other Members of the Senate but, more importantly, also with ordinary families across this country and Planned Parenthood and all the women in Massachusetts and this country who believe every woman seeking reproductive health care should be safe and protected.

I am proud that all Massachusetts law enforcement officials will continue to use every legal tool available to ensure the safety and privacy of women and clinic staff. Today is a historic day. Unfortunately, it is one of which our country should not be proud.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORIST THREATS

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, Senator MCCAIN and I have decided to come down before the Fourth of July break to talk about two issues that are very important to our national security.

The first issue I would like to discuss is the threat we face as a nation from terrorist safe havens in Syria and now Iraq.

The President has indicated in recent days that it is unacceptable to allow terrorist organizations such as ISIS to have safe havens from which to launch attacks against our country.

Mr. President, we agree. What are you doing about it? I understand Iraq is complicated. I understand you would need a new government in Iraq that Sunnis could buy into to probably turn Iraq around. That is a problem, but that is a separate problem from safe havens that can be used to launch attacks against the United States. Please do not turn over to the Iraqi politicians the timeline as to whether we will act to protect ourselves.

This is the FBI Director: ''My concern is that people can go to Syria, develop new relationships, learn new techniques and become far more dangerous, and then flow back.''

Americans are now in Syria. Some 7,500 foreign fighters from 50 countries have gone to Syria. They are now in Iraq. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was kicked out by Al Qaeda. These are the most extreme people on the planet. They have now gone into Iraq and taken large territories and up to $500 million in resources. They had a $30 million-a-year budget. They have more money than they ever dreamed of. Their desire to hit the homeland is growing. Last week the leader of this group said: We will be coming to America next.

Mr. President, do not use the political problems in Baghdad as an excuse not to act when it comes to denying safe havens to terrorists who have espoused attacking our country. Where is your plan to dislodge these people in Syria and Iraq? Where is your plan to deal with the safe haven issue? Where is your plan to hit a terrorist organization that is desirous of hitting us?

Mr. President, you cannot have it both ways. You cannot alert us as a nation that we are threatened by a safe haven in Iraq and Syria and do nothing about it. I understand the political complexities that exist in Iraq, but I also understand the need to deal with the safe haven issue. What do you envision as a solution to the safe haven problem in Syria and Iraq? When are we going to act? Is there no military component available to the United States to hit a terrorist organization that is operating out in the open in Syria and Iraq, that represents a direct threat to our homeland?

Mr. President, now is the time for you to come up with a plan to deal with the safe havens. That issue is separate and apart from dealing with the political complications and the meltdown in Iraq. You have said and the Director of National Security Mr. Clapper has said that Syria is an apocalyptic state; it is in a very bad way; that the jihadists in Syria represent a direct threat to our homeland.

The same jihadists in Syria have moved now into Iraq. Three years ago when Senator MCCAIN was urging airstrikes and that a safe zone be established, there were fewer than 1,000 foreign fighters in Syria. Today we think there are up to 26,000 ISIS types in Syria. Now they are moving to Iraq at lightning speed, taking town after town, amassing resources in terms of military hardware and money that will make them not just a terrorist organization but a terrorist army.

Mr. President, there is a terrorist army on the march in Iraq and Syria. They have indicated they want to hit our Nation. They want to strike us in the region, throughout the world, and here at home. You seem to have no plan. We want to help you. We understand this is complicated, but you, as Commander in Chief above all others, have a duty to come up with a solution to this problem. You have defined the problem well, but you have done nothing to solve the problem. We stand ready to help you solve that problem.

Now, as we try to figure out where to go in Iraq and what is the right strategy, the one thing that is important to me is not to rewrite history. I do not want to dwell on the past, but I am not going to sit on the sidelines and let this administration—which, as Senator Obama, Senator Clinton, and Senator Kerry, was all over the Bush administration for the mistakes they made. That is the way the political process works.

When the Iraq war was going poorly on President Bush's watch, Senator MCCAIN called for the Republican-appointed Secretary of Defense to resign. I would argue that Senator MCCAIN above all others has been consistent when it comes to Iraq. It does not matter who is making the mistake; if he believes one is being made, he will speak up.

The line that there were just a few dead-enders in Iraq was not true. The reason we knew it was not true is that Senator MCCAIN and I went to Iraq numerous times. The first time we went, we were in an SUV with a three-car convoy. We went down to Baghdad, had dinner, and went shopping. Every time thereafter, the security was tighter, our ability to leave the base was restricted, and the people on the ground who were fighting the war were telling us: This thing is not going well. Every time we would hear from the Bush administration that the media was misrepresenting the truth and that this was just a few dead-enders, we knew better. We spoke up.

Abu Ghraib was a direct result of being overwhelmed by circumstances on the ground. We thought that once the Iraqi Army disbanded and Saddam Hussein was displaced, we would be able to handle Iraq with a few thousand troops. The Bush administration was wrong in that calculation. Senator MCCAIN spoke up, and the surge did work.

To President Bush's undying credit: You corrected the mistakes that happened on your watch. You kept an open mind. You changed strategy because the strategy you originally pursued had failed.

President Obama, your strategy has failed. The idea of abandoning Iraq, disengaging politically and militarily, has come home to haunt us as a nation.

Senator MCCAIN and I said back in 2011: If we do not leave a residual force behind as an insurance policy for our own national security interests, we will regret it.

Madam President, 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers, well placed, would have given the capacity to the Iraqi Army to allow them to be more effective, and what we see on the ground today would have never happened. I am convinced that ISIS would never be in Iraq the way they are today if there had been an American military component—10,000 to 15,000—providing capacity and expertise to an Iraqi army that is literally falling apart.

I am convinced today that if we had continued to push the Iraqi political system to reconcile, we would not be where we are today. Dave Petraeus and Ryan Crocker—one general and one diplomat—spent hours every day of the week practically pushing the Sunnis, the Shias, and the Kurds to solve their problems with the political process. It was working.

In 2010 we made a fateful mistake. We allowed Syria to go bad. Syria became the supply center for Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was on its back. In 2010 the surge had worked. Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was the predecessor to ISIS, was completely devastated. They are back in the game for three reasons: Syria became a failed state. We had a chance to stop that and did not. They were being resupplied from Syria with equipment and fighters. We decided to disengage from Iraq politically. We had a hands-off approach to the political problems in Baghdad. We withdrew our troops all from 2010 to 2011. Those three things became a perfect storm to lead us to where we are today.

We do want to look forward because looking backward does not solve the problem. But here is what we will not accept. We will not accept a rewriting of history. When this administration says the reason we have no troops in Iraq today is because of the Iraqis, that is an absolutely false statement.

In May of 2011 Senator MCCAIN and I, at the request of Secretary Clinton,

went to Iraq to talk about a follow-on agreement, a strategic partnership agreement that had in its making a military component that would give legal protections to our troops who were left behind.

I remember this as if it were yesterday. We were in a meeting with Prime Minister Malaki. We were talking about leaving troops behind and whether the Iraqis would give us the legal protections we needed because I told Prime Minister Malaki: No American politician is going to allow soldiers to be left behind in a foreign country without legal protection.

If a person was charged with a crime in Iraq, given the inventory in their legal system, I did not feel comfortable allowing that soldier to go into the Iraqi legal system. We would deal with disciplinary problems.

He turned to me and said: How many soldiers are you talking about?

I turned to Ambassador Jeffrey, the U.S. Ambassador, General Austin, the commander, and said: What is the answer?

They replied to me: We are still working on that.

The Prime Minister of Iraq laughed. This was in May of 2011. We could not tell the Prime Minister of Iraq how many troops we were talking about.

We went to the Kurdish portion of Iraq and talked to President Barzani. He would have accepted any amount of troops we wanted to leave behind. He was openly embracing the follow-on force.

We met with Mr. Allawi, one of the leaders of the Iraqiya Sunni bloc, who was very open minded to a follow-on force.

The day after we left Iraq, Prime Minister Malaki issued a statement saying that if the other parties would agree, he would agree to a follow-on force.

On November 15, 2011, we had a hearing with General Dempsey and Secretary Panetta in the Armed Services Committee. We asked the following question: Was it the Iraqis who rejected a follow-on force, originally envisioned to be 18,000 or 19,000?

The bottom-line number from the Pentagon was 10,000.

I asked the question. Was it the Iraqis who said: No, we do not want 18,000. That is too many.

The numbers kept going down to finally 3,000.

Senator MCCAIN asked the question.

The answer was: The reduction in numbers that we will be willing to offer to the Iraqis did not come from a rejection by Iraq but by a reduction of the numbers by the White House.

In other words, the cascading effect of the numbers from 18,000 to 3,000 was not because Iraq said no; it was because the White House kept changing the numbers to the point that the force envisioned would be ineffective and fail.

Those are the facts.

Senator MCCAIN will address the statements by the President before, during, and after, but I am here to tell you, without any doubt in my mind, the reason we don't have troops in Iraq after 2011 is because the Obama administration wanted to get to zero. They wanted to honor our campaign promise to get us out of Iraq.

They did so, and now they are trying to blame the Iraqis. They are trying to rewrite history. I can understand why they don't want to own what happened in Iraq. I can't understand why we would let them get away with it, and I am not going to let them get away with it.

Going forward, we have a mess on our hands, and I want to help the President where I can.

But, Mr. President, you were very good at questioning the policies of the Bush administration, and you held nothing back. I am here to tell you I know what you are saying about Iraq is not true.

On October 21, during a conference call with staff, Denis McDonough and Tony Blinken—former National Security Adviser to BIDEN and now National Security Council—briefing staff members about the problems with legal immunity was asked a question by Senator MCCAIN's staff person: If you could get a legal agreement that we felt was solid, would you leave any troops behind, and they said no.

So we are going to write them a letter. There are several of our staff who were on that phone call and we are going to ask Mr. McDonough and Mr. Blinken: Did you say that, and they can say whatever they want to, but I have people I know and I trust who were on that phone call and they know what was said.

With that, I will turn it over to Senator MCCAIN.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would ask my colleague one question before we go on; that is, in addition to this overwhelming information in which the Senator and I were deeply involved that proves conclusively that the President of the United States did not want to leave a single troop member behind in Iraq and succeeded in doing so, did the Senator from South Carolina ever hear the President of the United States, either before the decision was made, during or after—did the Senator ever hear any record of him saying he wanted to leave a residual force behind?

Mr. GRAHAM. Quite the opposite. If we go back and look at the tape around this debate, the President basically said: We left Iraq and we are not going to be bogged down by Iraq.

There was no regret that I am so sorry we couldn't convince the Iraqis to leave a residual force behind because that would have been the best outcome for Iraq and the United States, and I regret that we could not get there and they will regret their decision.

None of that happened. It was all about the last combat soldier is out. We are done with Iraq. We have given them all the help we can give them. We are going to move on, and we are not going to be bogged down.

Now the place is going to hell. It is a direct threat to the United States, and they are trying to rewrite history—and I think it was October.

Mr. MCCAIN. The President of the United States, in the last couple of days—please correct me—it was the first time he said it was Iraqis who did not want to leave a force behind.

Mr. GRAHAM. The Iraqis did not want to leave a force behind.

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes; he was saying they did not.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following quotes, including October 2012.

I quote the President of the United States:

> What I would not have done is left 10,000 troops in Iraq [as Candidate Romney proposed], that would tie us down. That certainly would not help us in the Middle East.

Jay Carney said on October 1, 2012:

> When President Obama took office, the Iraq War had been going on for years and he had campaigned with a promise to end that war, and he has done that.

One of my favorites is December 2011:

> In the coming days the last American soldiers will cross the border out of Iraq. . . . with honor and with their heads held high. After nearly nine years, our war in Iraq ends this month.

Anyway, the list goes on. In fact, the President campaigned for reelection in 2012 on the premise that he had gotten us out of Iraq.

The Senator from South Carolina and I predicted this would happen if we didn't leave a residual force behind. I say to my colleagues again, if we repeat this same total pullout of Afghanistan, we are going to see this same movie in Afghanistan.

So I plead with the President of the United States, please revisit your decision that every American troop be pulled out.

The Afghans do not have the capability, whether air assets, intel or other capabilities, to defend themselves against an enemy that has a sanctuary in Pakistan.

I plead with the President of the United States, do not make the same mistake in Afghanistan.

I point out again, at the end of the surge we had won the conflict in Iraq. The conflict was won, and instead obviously we blew it.

I would like to talk for a few minutes with my colleague from South Carolina because we need to understand what is happening in Iraq. In the last 3 to 4 weeks, this whole part of Iraq has been taken over by the forces of ISIS.

The second largest city in all of Iraq, Mosul, has been taken over, which triggered 500,000 refugees—500,000 refugees left Mosul.

Tal Afar—a major city, Kirkuk, where the Kurdish forces came in and took over Kirkuk and made it now part of the Kurdish part of Iraq.

What is most concerning, I say to my colleagues—and I know the Senator

from South Carolina and I have been focusing on this—is the Jordanian-Iraq border. The border crossings from Iraq into Jordan have been taken over by ISIS.

As we know, Jordan is a small country. It is overburdened now with hundreds of thousands of refugees. It has significant problems on the Syrian side of its border. This can be a terribly destabilizing factor to our—probably outside of Israel—strongest and best ally in the entire Middle East.

Ramadi, Fallujah, every Iraq veteran will remember Ramadi and Fallujah. Every Iraq veteran will remember the second battle of Fallujah where we lost 96 brave soldiers and marines and over 600 wounded. Now the black flags of Al Qaeda fly over Ramadi and Fallujah. The border to Syria no longer exists, my friends.

If we look at Syria, all the way to Aleppo, all the way around, a part of the Middle East that is larger than the State of Indiana is now overtaken by the richest and most powerful terrorist organization in history; that is, ISIS.

We cannot address Iraq, if we do, without addressing Syria, as well as the movement of men and equipment back and forth. By the way, the Sunni don't like these people. They are the most radical form of Islam. They don't like them, but they prefer them to the government—the Shiite-run government by Maliki—which has been systematically discriminating against them.

So what do we need to do? As the Senator from South Carolina said, what we want is Maliki to be in a transition government that transitions him out of power, but we cannot wait until that happens.

By the way, they have also taken a place just north of Baghdad where the largest oil refinery is, Baiji, that provides energy to the 7 million people in Baghdad, and they have also come to a place called Haditha, where a dam is that holds a water supply. If they get hold of both of those places, they basically have a stranglehold on Baghdad itself.

This is serious.

So what has the President of the United States and the administration decided to do? Send 90, 200 or 250 people over to Iraq and with the stated purpose of ''assessing the situation.''

Those of my friends and colleagues who have been to Iraq know it is a flat desert area, including very hot now. These people, these ISIS forces, are moving in convoys of 100, 200, 300 vehicles.

They can be taken out by air power. Right now the President of the United States has refused to do that, but they can be taken out by air power.

Air power does not determine conflicts, but air power has a profound psychological effect on your adversary. We have drones, and we have the air capability to take out a lot of these forces.

Remember, they are probably at a maximum of about 10,000, and as the Senator from South Carolina said, they started out with about 1,000, but don't forget they are moving back and forth between Syria and Iraq in this now huge area. They are moving on Baghdad.

I don't know exactly what is going on. I don't believe they can take Baghdad with a frontal assault. I do believe it is possible that they could cause assassinations, bombings, breakdowns in electricity, and breakdown in law and order. In other words, this place where we sacrificed roughly 4,450 American lives is now in the hands of the largest terrorist organization in history.

I say to the President of the United States: We can't wait. If the next 2 weeks that the administration says they are going to use to assess this situation is wasted in assessment, I don't know what is going to happen in Iraq. I don't know what is going to happen to Jordan. I don't know what is going to happen as far as the continued increasing influence of the Iranians.

Published reports today indicate there are Iranian forces, Iranian assistance all through Iran.

An article from the New York Times, ''Iran Secretly Sending Drones and Supplies into Iraq, U.S. Officials Say,'' states:

> Gen. Qassim Suleimani, the head of Iran's paramilitary Quds Force, has visited Iraq at least twice to help Iraqi military advisers plot strategy. And Iran has deployed about a dozen other Quds Force officers to advise Iraqi commanders, and help mobilize more than 2,000 Shiite militiamen from southern Iraq, American officials said.
>
> Iranian transport planes have also been making two daily flights of military equipment and supplies to Baghdad—70 tons per flight—for Iraqi security forces.

While the United States is assessing, Iranians are exercising more and more influence.

I have also been told—and I cannot verify it—that the Russians are now offering to provide assistance to Maliki.

There has to be a transition government. There has to be a transition of Maliki out of government, but to wait until that happens, it may be too late.

I would ask my colleague from South Carolina, are you concerned about the Iranian influence and what do you believe is the situation that could evolve on the Jordanian border?

Mr. GRAHAM. If you listen to the people who are launching these attacks, they say they are going to Jordan. What are they trying to accomplish? Bizarre as it may sound to the average American, they have a very specific plan and it sort of goes like this: They want to purify their religion. They are Sunnis. They have a version of Islam, Sunni Islam that is beyond horrific, that is a woman's worst nightmare.

If you want to find a world of women, go to Syria, Iraq, and eventually Afghanistan, I am afraid. You would not believe what these people are capable of doing, what they will do to a person who smokes. They will chop your finger off. I mean, they will kill children in front of their parents.

These people represent the worst in humanity. My fear is, the President's fear, that the stronger they get over there the more exposed we are over here.

So, Mr. President, if you believe it is not in our national security interests to allow these folks to have a safe haven in Syria and now in Iraq, what are you doing about it? You have political problems in Iraq, I have got that, but why does that prevent us from attacking these people in Syria where their leadership resides and where their supply depots are? There has to come a time when this country is going to commit to defending itself.

My goal is to keep the war over there so it doesn't come back here.

Senator MCCAIN, 3 years ago now almost, urged us to act in a way that would have allowed the moderate forces of the opposition to be empowered and to avoid where we are today. We chose not to act, at our own peril.

So I make this crystal clear, this area Senator MCCAIN has described in Iraq represents a terrorist safe haven in the hands of people who want to attack us here at home.

I am not making that up. The Director of National Intelligence, the FBI Director, and Jeh Johnson, the head of Homeland Security, have all said Syria represents a threat to the homeland.

Well, if a Syrian enclave and safe haven represents a threat to the homeland, an Iraqi enclave bigger and richer surely represents a threat to the homeland, and the President admitted as much. So I don't want to hear any more discussions about we have to wait until Iraq gets its house in order until we protect American national security interests.

As to Jordan, now is the time in a bipartisan fashion for the Congress to speak with one voice and tell the world and everyone in the region that we will defend Jordan. The King of Jordan is the last moderate voice in the Middle East surrounding Israel. The King of Jordan has been the most faithful ally to America. The King of Jordan has been effectively engaged with Israel. The King of Jordan represents the best hope in the Middle East.

If we allow a terrorist army—not an organization, now, an army of committed jihadists—to invade that country and put the King at risk, that will be one of the great tragedies in modern history. I think it is now time to let the terrorist army know: You are not going into Jordan, and say it in such a fashion as to not give Iraq away. But if we don't reinforce Jordan quickly, it would be a mistake.

I have high confidence in the Jordanian military, but let me say this: It is in our interests for the King to survive; it is in our interests for Jordan to flourish; it is in our interests for ISIS to be stopped in their tracks in Iraq; it is in our interests for them to be wiped off the face of the Earth to the extent possible; it is in our interests to go on the offensive before it is too late.

One thing I can say I have learned from 9/11 is thinking and believing if we ignore them they will ignore us is a very bad mistake. On September 10, 2001, the day before 9/11, we didn't have one soldier in Afghanistan, we didn't even have an ambassador, and we sent no money in terms of assistance to the Taliban. We were completely disengaged from Afghanistan. How well did that work?

Anytime you disengage from people that bloodthirsty and you believe it will not come back to haunt you, you are making a mistake. Anytime a group will kill women in a soccer stadium for sport and we think we are safe if we ignore them, we are making the mistake for the ages.

These people, the ISIS, represent a depraved form of humanity in the category of the Nazis. And what are we doing about it?

I am tired of ceding city after city, country after country to radical Islam. Now is the time to fight back—fight back as if it meant fighting for your home and your family, because it does—fight back over there so we don't have to fight them here. And they are coming here. If you don't believe me, ask them.

The best way to keep them from coming here is to align ourselves with people over there who do not want their agenda for their family and are willing to fight along our side. Right now, who feels comfortable fighting with America? Right now, our enemies are emboldened, our friends are afraid.

Now is the time to turn this around, Mr. President. You are waiting and waiting and thinking and thinking, and they are on the march. I know this is complicated, but the one thing that is not complicated is that the terrorist organization you said could not have safe haven has the largest safe haven in the history of the world. They are richer than they have ever been, they are more powerful than they have ever been, and you are doing nothing about it. You need to do something about it before it is too late, and we stand ready to help you.

Mr. MCCAIN. I wish to emphasize with my colleague from South Carolina, continuously we hear from the President of the United States that those of us who are in strong disagreement with his strategy—well, there is none. The fact is there is no strategy.

We keep being accused of wanting to send ''thousands of troops'' on the ground in Syria or in Iraq. That is patently false. I know of no one who shares our concern who wants to send ground combat troops into Iraq. So I wish the President of the United States would stop saying that.

Second of all, what we do want is we want some people who can be forward air controllers, some of our special forces people, to direct these air strikes against what is movement of these hundreds of vehicles in convoy across open desert. It can be done.

The next thing I wish to emphasize is how dangerous it is becoming, particularly at the most holy Shiite shrines of Samarra and Karbala. Those two are the holiest shrines of the Shia. If ISIS comes into those holy sites and destroys them, we are going to see this thing explode even more.

There are many other things I would like to say, but I don't want to continue too much longer on this, but to point out again, this is not just an Iraq problem. This is the border which runs along between Syria and Iraq. We cannot address just the Iraqi side.

Lately, interestingly, Bashar Assad has been using his air power to attack ISIS. If the United States does not become involved, then people such as Bashar al-Assad, people such as the Iranians will fill that vacuum. It is time for us to act.

What do I mean by that?

First of all, why don't we send Ryan Crocker and David Petraeus back to Baghdad. They are the smartest people I have ever known, and everybody agrees with that: Send them back to Baghdad and sit down with Maliki. Also, send some military planning teams that can assess the situation and address the needs of the Iraqi military, those that can still function effectively. Go ahead and orchestrate the air strikes, and understand that the problem in Syria is going to have to be addressed as well. So there are concrete steps that every military leader I know advocates as a way of turning this around.

There is no good option. Because of the situation we are in, there is no good option. But the worst option is what the administration is doing today, which is nothing, except sending a few advisers over to give some assessment of the situation.

No one wants to get back into any conflict. No American wants to do that. I am the last one who wants to do that. But we have to understand what our Director of National Intelligence has told us, what our Secretary of Homeland Security has told us, what our common sense and eyes will tell us: If you have a terrorist organization that has hundreds of millions of dollars, that has control of an area the size of the State of Indiana where they are consolidating power and they have promised they will attack us—the United States can't afford another 9/11. We can't afford to see these jihadists pouring out of Syria and Iraq into Europe and into the United States of America, because these extremists have flowed in from all of these countries.

The President of the United States can make the American people aware of this threat, and that we have to take action, without sending ground combat troops into the conflict. And I am confident—because the memory of 9/11 has not faded in the memory of the people of this country. We remember that tragedy graphically. All of us remember where we were that day. But this is a clear and present danger, and it is long time overdue for the United States to react as the strongest and most powerful Nation in the world.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from the Atlantic by Peter Beinart entitled ''Obama's Disastrous Iraq Policy: An Autopsy.''

I further ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed by DENNIS ROSS, one of the most respected individuals on the entire Middle East, entitled ''Op-ed: To contain ISIS, think Iraq—but also think Syria.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Atlantic, June 25, 2014]

OBAMA'S DISASTROUS IRAQ POLICY: AN AUTOPSY

(By Peter Beinart)

Yes, the Iraq War was a disaster of historic proportions. Yes, seeing its architects return to prime time to smugly slam President Obama while taking no responsibility for their own, far greater, failures is infuriating.

But sooner or later, honest liberals will have to admit that Obama's Iraq policy has been a disaster. Since the president took office, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has grown ever more tyrannical and ever more sectarian, driving his country's Sunnis toward revolt. Since Obama took office, Iraq watchers—including those within his own administration—have warned that unless the United States pushed hard for inclusive government, the country would slide back into civil war. Yet the White House has been so eager to put Iraq in America's rearview mirror that, publicly at least, it has given Maliki an almost-free pass. Until now, when it may be too late.

Obama inherited an Iraq where better security had created an opportunity for better government. The Bush administration's troop ''surge'' did not solve the country's underlying divisions. But by retaking Sunni areas from insurgents, it gave Iraq's politicians the chance to forge a government inclusive enough to keep the country together.

The problem was that Maliki wasn't interested in such a government. Rather than integrate the Sunni Awakening fighters who had helped subdue al-Qaeda into Iraq's army, Maliki arrested them. In the run-up to his 2010 reelection bid, Maliki's Electoral Commission disqualified more than 500, mostly Sunni, candidates on charges that they had ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.

For the Obama administration, however, tangling with Maliki meant investing time and energy in Iraq, a country it desperately wanted to pivot away from. A few months before the 2010 elections, according to Dexter Filkins in The New Yorker, ''American diplomats in Iraq sent a rare dissenting cable to Washington, complaining that the U.S., with its combination of support and indifference, was encouraging Maliki's authoritarian tendencies.''

When Iraqis went to the polls in March 2010, they gave a narrow plurality to the Iraqiya List, an alliance of parties that enjoyed significant Sunni support but was led by Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite. Under pressure from Maliki, however, an Iraqi judge allowed the prime minister's Dawa Party—which had finished a close second—to form a government instead. According to Emma Sky, chief political adviser to General Raymond Odierno, who commanded U.S. forces in Iraq, American officials knew this violated Iraq's constitution. But they never publicly challenged Maliki's power grab, which was backed by Iran, perhaps because they believed his claim that Iraq's Shiites

would never accept a Sunni-aligned government. ''The message'' that America's acquiescence ''sent to Iraq's people and politicians alike,'' wrote the Brookings Institution's Kenneth Pollack, ''was that the United States under the new Obama administration was no longer going to enforce the rules of the democratic road . . . [This] undermined the reform of Iraqi politics and resurrected the specter of the failed state and the civil war.'' According to Filkins, one American diplomat in Iraq resigned in disgust.

By that fall, to its credit, the U.S. had helped craft an agreement in which Maliki remained prime minister but Iraqiya controlled key ministries. Yet as Ned Parker, the Reuters bureau chief in Baghdad, later detailed, ''Washington quickly disengaged from actually ensuring that the provisions of the deal were implemented.'' In his book, The Dispensable Nation, Vali Nasr, who worked at the State Department at the time, notes that the ''fragile power-sharing arrangement . . . required close American management. But the Obama administration had no time or energy for that. Instead it anxiously eyed the exits, with its one thought to get out. It stopped protecting the political process just when talk of American withdrawal turned the heat back up under the long-simmering power struggle that pitted the Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds against one another.''

Under an agreement signed by George W. Bush, the U.S. was to withdraw forces from Iraq by the end of 2011. American military officials, fearful that Iraq might unravel without U.S. supervision, wanted to keep 20,000 to 25,000 troops in the country after that. Obama now claims that maintaining any residual force was impossible because Iraq's parliament would not give U.S. soldiers immunity from prosecution. Given how unpopular America's military presence was among ordinary Iraqis, that may well be true. But we can't fully know because Obama—eager to tout a full withdrawal from Iraq in his reelection campaign—didn't push hard to keep troops in the country. As a former senior White House official told Peter Baker of The New York Times, ''We really didn't want to be there and [Maliki] really didn't want us there . . . [Y]ou had a president who was going to be running for re-election, and getting out of Iraq was going to be a big statement.''

In recent days, Republicans have slammed Obama for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq. But the real problem with America's military withdrawal was that it exacerbated a diplomatic withdrawal that had been underway since Obama took office.

The decline of U.S. leverage in Iraq simply reinforced the attitude Obama had held since 2009: Let Maliki do whatever he wants so long as he keeps Iraq off the front page.

On December 12, 2011, just days before the final U.S. troops departed Iraq, Maliki visited the White House. According to Nasr, he told Obama that Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, an Iraqiya leader and the highest-ranking Sunni in his government, supported terrorism. Maliki, argues Nasr, was testing Obama, probing to see how the U.S. would react if he began cleansing his government of Sunnis. Obama replied that it was a domestic Iraqi affair. After the meeting, Nasr claims, Maliki told aides, ''See! The Americans don't care.''

In public remarks after the meeting, Obama praised Maliki for leading ''Iraq's most inclusive government yet.'' Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Saleh al-Mutlaq, another Sunni, told CNN he was ''shocked'' by the president's comments. ''There will be a day,'' he predicted, ''whereby the Americans will realize that they were deceived by al-Maliki . . . and they will regret that.''

A week later, the Iraqi government issued a warrant for Hashimi's arrest. Thirteen of his bodyguards were arrested and tortured. Hashimi fled the country and, while in exile, was sentenced to death.

''Over the next 18 months,'' writes Pollack, ''many Sunni leaders were arrested or driven from politics, including some of the most non-sectarian, non-violent, practical and technocratic.'' Enraged by Maliki's behavior, and emboldened by the prospect of a Sunni takeover in neighboring Syria, Iraqi Sunnis began reconnecting with their old jihadist allies. Yet, in public at least, the Obama administration still acted as if all was well.

In March 2013, Maliki sent troops to arrest Rafi Issawi, Iraq's former finance minister and a well-regarded Sunni moderate who had criticized the prime minister's growing authoritarianism. In a Los Angeles Times op-ed later that month, Iraq expert Henri Barkey called the move ''another nail in the coffin for a unified Iraq.'' Iraq, he warned, ''is on its way to dissolution, and the United States is doing nothing to stop it'' because ''Washington seems petrified about crossing Maliki.''

That fall, Maliki prepared to visit the White House again. Three days before he arrived, Emma Sky, the former adviser to General Odierno, co-authored a New York Times op-ed entitled ''Maliki's Democratic Farce,'' in which she argued that, ''Too often, Mr. Maliki has misinterpreted American backing for his government as a carte blanche for uncompromising behavior.'' The day before Maliki arrived, six senators—including Democrats Carl Levin and Robert Menendez—sent the White House a letter warning that, ''by too often pursuing a sectarian and authoritarian agenda, Prime Minister Maliki and his allies are disenfranchising Sunni Iraqis . . . This failure of governance is driving many Sunni Iraqis into the arms of Al-Qaeda.''

Still, in his public remarks, Obama didn't even hint that Maliki was doing anything wrong. After meeting his Iraqi counterpart on November 1, Obama told the press that, ''we appreciate Prime Minister Maliki's commitment to . . . ensuring a strong, prosperous, inclusive, and democratic Iraq,'' and declared ''that we were encouraged by the work that Prime Minister Maliki has done in the past to ensure that all people inside of Iraq—Sunni, Shia, and Kurd—feel that they have a voice in their government.'' A former senior administration official told me that, privately, the administration pushed Maliki hard to be more inclusive. If so, it did not work. In late December, less than two months after Maliki's White House visit, Iraqi troops arrested yet another prominent Sunni critic, Ahmed al-Alwani, chairman of the Iraqi parliament's economics committee, killing five of Alwani's guards in the process.

By this January, jihadist rebels from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, or ISIL) had taken control of much of largely Sunni Anbar province. Vice President Biden—the administration's point man on Iraq—was now talking to Maliki frequently. But according to White House summaries of Biden's calls, he still spent more time praising the Iraqi leader than pressuring him. On January 8, the vice president ''encouraged the Prime Minister to continue the Iraqi government's outreach to local, tribal, and national leaders.'' On January 18, ''The two leaders agreed on the importance of the Iraqi government's continued outreach to local and tribal leaders in Anbar province.'' On January 26, ''The Vice President commended the Government of Iraq's commitment to integrate tribal forces fighting AQI/ISIL into Iraqi security forces.'' (The emphases are mine.) For his part, Obama has not spoken to Maliki since their meeting last November.

Finally, last Thursday, in what was widely interpreted as an invitation for Iraqis to push Maliki aside, Obama declared, ''that whether he is prime minister or any other leader aspires to lead the country, that it has to be an agenda in which Sunni, Shia and Kurd all feel that they have the opportunity to advance their interest through the political process.'' Obama also noted that, ''The government in Baghdad has not sufficiently reached out to some of the [Sunni] tribes and been able to bring them into a process that, you know, gives them a sense of being part of—of a unity government or a single nation-state.''

That's certainly true. The problem is that it took Obama five years to publicly say so—or do anything about it—despite pleas from numerous Iraq experts, some close to his own administration. This inaction was abetted by American journalists. Many of us proved strikingly indifferent to a country about which we once claimed to care deeply.

In recent days, many liberals have rushed to Obama's defense simply because they are so galled to hear people like Dick Cheney and Bill Kristol lecturing anyone on Iraq. That's a mistake. While far less egregious than George W. Bush's errors, Obama's have been egregious enough. By ignoring Iraq, and refusing to defend democratic principles there, he has helped spawn the disaster we see today. It's time people who aren't Republican operatives began saying so.

[From the Los Angeles Times, June 23, 2014]

TO CONTAIN ISIS, THINK IRAQ—BUT ALSO THINK SYRIA

(By Dennis Ross)

The conflict in Iraq will not be settled any time soon. Although the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, and its Sunni allies may not be about to march on Baghdad, they are continuing to expand their control over much of northern and western Iraq. The military and diplomatic steps that President Obama has ordered reflect the U.S. need to prevent ISIS from embedding itself in more of Iraq. Whether they will work, however, is another matter.

Iraq is a mess today. The president is right to expect the Iraqi government to take the lead in its own defense He is right to insist that Iraq's government must become more inclusive and less sectarian. And he is right to be wary of getting sucked into a sectarian conflict in which we take sides.

The same calculus has guided the United States in Syria. There, our fears of the costs of action—even limited military support for the opposition—led us to ignore the costs of inaction. We hoped that sanctions, a political process and humanitarian assistance would make it possible to affect the reality in Syria. It did not. Those who argued that the price would go up in human and strategic terms—and that we needed to affect the balance of power within the opposition and between it and the regime of President Bashar Assad—were right.

Today, the costs in terms of spillover in the region and the consequences of radical Islamists, particularly ISIS, coming to dominate the opposition are clear. Syria is a disaster, there is no border between Syria and Iraq, and the re-emergence of a terrible sectarian conflict in Iraq is inextricably linked to Syria. There will be no effective or enduring answer to the ISIS threat in Iraq without also taking steps in Syria to deny it a sanctuary and a recruiting base.

If nothing else, this should tell us that our response to the current crisis in Iraq must be guided by a broader strategy toward the region, one that has clear objectives in Iraq and Syria and takes into account that resisting ISIS cannot make it appear that we are

suddenly partners with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. The fact that the Iranians also have reason to fear ISIS means we have converging but not identical interests.

The Iranians have used radical Shiite militias—Hezbollah, Kataib Hezbollah and Asaib Ahl al Haq—in Syria and Iraq. The latter two—armed, trained and funded by the Iranians—were responsible for killing hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq. We should be talking to Iraq's neighbors, including Iran, about what we and they can do to help stabilize Iraq and defeat ISIS.

But Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan will not be responsive if they think fighting ISIS means the U.S. is prepared to leave the Sunnis vulnerable to Iran and its Shiite-backed militias. If Iran wants stability in Iraq and not an ongoing sectarian war on its border, it will need to accept that although the Shiites will hold many of the levers of power, they must also be prepared to share them.

In Iraq, if the U.S. is to help blunt ISIS, the central government must give Sunnis and Kurds a sense of inclusion and a stake in working with Baghdad and the military. Prime Minister Nouri Maliki's conspiratorial, authoritarian approach has made that impossible. We should make any coordinated military action with the Iraqi government contingent on Maliki actually taking such steps, including appointing a government of national unity, empowering a Sunni defense minister and permitting the Kurds to export their oil. Absent that, we may still choose to target ISIS forces if there is a need, but without regard to what the Iraqi government may seek.

As for Syria, though we must deny ISIS sanctuary there, the U.S. cannot partner with the Assad regime. The simple fact is that so long as Assad remains in power, he will be a magnet for every jihadi worldwide to join the holy war against him. No country in the region is immune from the fallout of the conflict in Syria, and we all face the danger of those who go to fight in Syria returning to their home countries to foment violence.

Though President Obama has spoken about ramping up our support for the opposition in Syria, we are late to that effort. It is time for the United States to assume the responsibility of quarterbacking the entire assistance effort to ensure that more meaningful aid—lethal, training, intelligence, money and humanitarian—not only gets to those who are fighting both ISIS and the Assad regime but is fully coordinated and complementary.

The broader point is that Washington's actions toward ISIS now must be taken with both Iraq and Syria in mind and be guided by a strategy geared toward weakening those forces that threaten the U.S. and its regional friends. The more we take this approach and highlight the costs to Iran of its current posture, the more the Iranians may see that their interests could be served by a political outcome of greater balance in Syria and Iraq. There will be risks to acting, but by now we have seen the costs of inaction, and they are only likely to grow over time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I appreciate my dear friend Senator COONS' patience.

At this time I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. COONS. Madam President, something important, something unusual, something worth noting happened this week, happened yesterday in this Chamber that I don't want to let pass without a few moments of comment.

Yesterday a broad bipartisan majority of this Senate came together to pass the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

First, I congratulate Senators MURRAY, ISAKSON, HARKIN, and ALEXANDER who led so capably on this bill. Senators MURRAY, a Democrat of Washington, and ISAKSON, a Republican of Georgia, spent years working through the details, policy, and language, and months making sure that they got this bill to a point where the Senate and the House in a bipartisan, bicameral way could adopt legislation.

What is this about? It is about something simple, important, and powerful: investing in America's workforce so we can compete with anyone around the world in the 21st century.

This is an area I have focused on a lot here in the Senate which I believe is critical to our Nation, our competitiveness, to strengthening our middle class, and to growing good jobs.

In manufacturing, it is a core challenge for us to ensure that our workers have the training employers are looking for, and that our manufacturing companies are globally competitive. Manufacturing is important to America, to our future, to our middle class, to our communities, and to our families because it pays well, it drives innovation, it contributes greatly to other sectors in our economy and in communities.

That is why a few months ago I launched the Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative that has brought together dozens of Senators. We initially pulled together Democrats from across my caucus to introduce 34 bills, some of the best and broadest ideas we could bring to the table about how to accelerate America's recovery of employment and steady growth in manufacturing. Roughly half of these bills are bipartisan.

Part of the goal of this Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative was to put good ideas out on the floor and get them in the mix as we debate things going forward. So I wish to take a moment today and celebrate that the ideas of many of our partners in this campaign, ideas drawn from many of the bills that are part of this initiative, ended up being important parts of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that was passed this week.

Let me briefly touch on the five most important who contributed ideas that were embedded in this bill that passed.

First, the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act which was sponsored by Senators REED and BROWN. In our rapidly changing economy, ensuring we can train Americans of all ages for all jobs is critical. Senator REED's bill takes an important step in that direction by investing in adult education, expanding access to technology and digital literacy skills and improving the coordination of State and local programs.

A bill that was endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers is the AMERICA Works Act, sponsored by Senators HAGAN and HELLER.

Another challenge we face is ensuring employers can quickly recognize whether a worker has the skills they need. So Senator HAGAN's bill helped solve this by ensuring we prioritize programs that invest in training that delivers portable national and industry-recognized credentials. This encourages job training programs to match the skills of workers with the needs of local employers, training individuals for the jobs currently available in their communities right now.

A third bill that contributed importantly to this bill that was enacted here yesterday, adopted by the Senate yesterday, was the Community College to Career Fund Act, sponsored by Senator FRANKEN and Senator BEGICH. Senator FRANKEN came to the floor yesterday and gave another passionate, important floor speech in support of these ideas. It is something that as I presided—and I have been with Senator FRANKEN in caucus and have heard him speak many times. It is about equipping workers with the skills they need by investing in partnerships between our community colleges and our employers. Senator FRANKEN, Senator BEGICH, myself and others have seen this work in our home communities. We have seen community colleges learn from manufacturers what today are the actual relevant modern manufacturing skills they need and then deliver customized training courses that make a difference in the skills, in the lives, in the college affordability and access of those who seek to join today's manufacturing workforce.

The fourth bill, the On-the-Job Training Act, cosponsored by Senators SHAHEEN and COCHRAN, contributes to the idea that we need to invest in on-the-job training. Because of Senator SHAHEEN's leadership on this bill, we will now make new and important investments so workers can learn what they need to do in the job that needs to be filled, rather than in an academic setting and then search the skills that may match the skills they learn. On-the-job training in this bill sponsored by SHAHEEN and COCHRAN is an important contribution to modernizing America's workplace skills.

The last, the SECTORS Act, cosponsored by Senators BROWN and COLLINS, is a provision that helps meet the fundamental challenge of connecting our schools with our businesses by requiring State and local workforce investment boards to establish sector-based partnerships.

With all of these bills there is an important and common theme. In the 21st century, rapid economic change is a given. In order to compete, in order to grow our economy and grow employment, in order to be productive and to have a successful and growing workforce, we need to be able to adapt as

quickly as our economy does and we need to invest in modernizing the skills of the American worker.

With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act yesterday, we have made a strong statement that in a bipartisan way we are willing to invest in America's workers, the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow. This is just one of many encouraging moments here in the Senate that sometimes go without note or commentary in our communities at home, but I thought it was important to bring to the floor today this range of five different bills, three of them bipartisan, all of them strong, whose ideas were part of the package adopted on the floor yesterday and that I am confident will be adopted by the House and signed into law by our President. This Senate can, will, should continue to make bipartisan progress in investing in American manufacturing.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I strongly support the bicameral, bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA. This long over-due reauthorization will help Americans to develop the skills necessary to participate in today's global economy. I would be remiss if I did not commend the leaders of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee—especially Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, MURRAY, and ISAKSON—for their hard work on crafting this important jobs bill which will benefit job seekers and their families, employers, and the economy. Their House counterparts—Representatives JOHN KLINE, GEORGE MILLER, VIRGINIA FOXX, and RUBÉN HINOJOSA of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—also deserve our praise and thanks.

Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, in 1998. It expired in 2003, but Congress has relied on annual appropriations bills to extend WIA's authorization 1 year at a time. These appropriations bills often have made modest policy changes. Some of the policy changes have been retained in subsequent years but continuity isn't guaranteed. This patchwork approach to improving our workforce education and development system is far from ideal, especially as the labor market changes rapidly in response to the global economy.

As our Nation continues the long, arduous climb out of the worst recession since the Great Depression, effective education and workforce development opportunities are vital to sustaining a building and sustaining a vibrant middle class. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will allow local workforce investment boards to create a system which prepares workers for the 21st-century labor market and helps employers find the skilled labor needed to compete and create good jobs here in the United States.

Let me provide a report on the workforce development progress we have made in Maryland. The Workforce Investment Network for Maryland is comprised of Maryland's 12 workforce investment area/workforce investment boards. The network reports assisting more than 216,000 Marylanders with job placement assessment, job search workshops, resume preparation, and myriad other services from July 2012 to June 2013. Nearly 16,000 job seekers completed job training programs, with several thousand receiving nationally recognized certificates and credentials. Through an aggressive outreach process, the Workforce Investment Network for Maryland engaged more than 7,700 businesses and was able to match nearly 44,000 jobs seekers with employers.

In Maryland, our local workforce investment boards know how to respond to the needs of the local community. The field of cyber security is projected to grow by 41 percent over the next 8 years, and jobs in this expanding field pay a median hourly wage of $38 per hour. Maryland is a hotbed of activity in the cyber security field since it is home to the U.S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Navy Fleet Cyber Command, and hundreds of Federal contractors and private technology companies. In an effort to address the lack skilled cyber security workers and increase the number of qualified workers in the pipeline, a three-way partnership—the Pathways to Cybersecurity Careers Consortium—was created to bring together the efforts of six workforce development agencies, three community colleges, and the local business community. The partnership, led by Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, was awarded a $4.9 million community-based job training grant to create the Pathways to Cyber Security Program. The grant was intended to assist 1,000 new, dislocated, underemployed, recently separated veterans, and incumbent workers in obtaining cyber security certifications identified as critical industry shortages by regional businesses and government agencies. I am proud to report that nearly 1,150 workers have received training in the program, 755 program participants have received cyber security certifications, and 721 program graduates have been hired by an employer or improved their skills with an existing employer. Some of the graduates of the cyber security programs have begun to work with a number of Federal agencies in my home State.

As I have traveled across Maryland, I have seen firsthand the positive effect of effective programs in action. This past March, I had the opportunity to visit students at Chesapeake College's Continuing Education & Workforce Training Culinary Arts Program. The students in the culinary arts program learn the principles of food preparation, obtain a nationally recognized safe food handling certificate, and finish the program ready to enter the workforce in local area hotels and restaurants. Having tasted a number of dishes the students prepared, I can tell you their training is going well. I was impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the students. One of them travels more than 2 hours by bus, one way, to attend class each day. I am confident these men and women will continue to hone their skills and enhance their employment prospects.

Our Nation's at-risk youth present special challenges we must overcome. Aaron Sierak, a resident of Aberdeen, MD, dropped out of high school during his junior year. After he became discouraged about his future and expressed a desire to change, he learned about the Reconnecting Youth dropout recovery program run by the Harford County Public Schools in partnership with the Susquehanna Workforce Network. The Susquehanna Workforce Network helped Aaron obtain his GED, enroll in Harford Community College, and obtain a Pell grant to help cover the cost of his first year of tuition. Aaron now plans to obtain an associate's degree and registered nursing certification so he can find work in a high-demand—and rewarding—occupation.

The Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act improves upon the existing youth services that helped put Aaron back on a path to economic mobility and a middle-class livelihood. WIOA places a priority on out-of-school youth by requiring that 75 percent of youth services funding at the State and local level be targeted to career pathways for youth, dropout recovery efforts, and education and training programs that lead to the attainment of a high school diploma and a recognized postsecondary credential.

The Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that will improve our workforce development system and help put Americans back to work, preparing workers for the 21st-century workforce and helping businesses find the skilled employees they need to compete and create even more domestic jobs. WIOA creates a streamlined workforce development system by eliminating 15 existing duplicative programs. It applies a single set of outcome metrics to every Federal workforce program under the act. It creates smaller, nimbler, and more strategic State and local workforce development boards. It integrates intake, case management, and reporting systems and strengthens program evaluations. And it eliminates the ''sequence of services.'' Finally, WIOA empowers local boards to tailor services to their region's employment and workforce needs with on-the-job, incumbent worker, and customized training and pay-for-performance contracts.

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2022 the supply of United States workers with postsecondary

education—including 6.8 million workers with bachelor's degrees and 4.3 million workers with a postsecondary vocational certificate, some college credits, or an associate's degree—will fall short of the demand for workers with those credentials by 11 million. This mismatch will impede our economic growth and harm our international competitiveness. It also represents a huge lost opportunity for millions of hard-working Americans and their families. To maintain our position as the world's economic leader, we need to educate and train our workers to fill the skilled jobs of the knowledge-based economy. And the workforce development system needs to pivot from short-term crisis intervention to long-term human capital development. WIOA does that, and the substitute amendment the Senate has passed demonstrates that here in Congress, we can come together to work on legislation that will boost the economic recovery and help all Americans.

WIOA

Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, I am pleased the Senate voted this week to improve job training in the United States. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, is the result of a commitment in both parties and both Chambers to modernize our workforce development system to ensure American competitiveness. The last time a Workforce Investment Act reauthorization was signed into law was in 1998, far too long ago, and the significant skills gap we face as a Nation is evidence that our fragmented system simply is not working.

Despite the billions of taxpayer dollars we invest annually on Federal job training programs, there are 4.5 million unfilled jobs and a staggering 10 million unemployed Americans. We need to bridge this gap, and WIOA helps get us there by reducing bureaucracy and providing American workers with a more flexible and effective workforce training system. Over the past year, I have heard from businesses, elected State and local leaders, and families back home about the critical need for reforms to our job training system, and I am glad to have had the chance to work on this bill and be a part of this process in the Senate.

This legislation incorporates many reforms contained in the SKILLS Act, which I introduced in the Senate earlier this year, including the elimination of 15 programs identified as duplicative or ineffective and countless Federal mandates on States and local boards. In addition, WIOA establishes common performance metrics and requires independent evaluations every 4 years of all workforce programs to ensure effectiveness and accountability to taxpayers. By reducing bureaucracy and enhancing flexibility, WIOA eliminates delays that hinder job seekers from immediately accessing job training services and reentering the workforce.

I appreciate my colleagues' work on this important issue and look forward to swift passage of WIOA in both Chambers.

JUNETEENTH REMEMBRANCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, last Friday was Juneteenth, which marks four of the most important days in our Nation's long and continuing march toward racial justice and civil rights in this country.

First, on June 19, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation abolished slavery in all U.S. territories. Then 3 years later, a month after the end of our Civil War, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, TX, to free the last of our Nation's slaves. Nearly a century later on June 19, 1963, with Jim Crow laws still a stain on the moral fabric of our country, President John F. Kennedy sent his Civil Rights Act of 1963 to Congress. And the following year, as the Nation mourned JFK's loss, President Johnson shepherded the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to final passage.

As we mark these days in our Nation's history, from the end of our darkest period to some of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation passed, we know we still have farther to go.

It is appropriate that we do so this year especially, that we mark June 19 and these five moments across our Nation's history, because as a result of the Supreme Court's decision last year, the Shelby County case, a key piece of President Johnson's Voting Rights Act of 1965 stands in bad need of repair and revision; and, in fact, the Voting Rights Act itself is at risk of becoming a dead letter in the future of voting in our country.

Two years ago I had the opportunity to join many of my colleagues in the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, in returning to Selma to the site of Bloody Sunday, to the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Many Members of Congress got a chance to hear again from Congressman LEWIS about the events of that day, that day that was etched into the consciousness of this country and mobilized millions to speak out to their representatives and Senators and move this Congress finally to enact legislation that would unlock the key to the ballot box across the country.

I was so proud earlier this year to join with Chairman LEAHY of the Senate Judiciary Committee and with Senator DICK DURBIN, Congressman LEWIS, icon of the Civil Rights movement, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, and Republican Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, to introduce a bill that would restore the core protections made possible in the original Voting Rights Act.

The bill we introduced doesn't look at discrimination through the lens of the past. It focuses on modern-day violations, not the things that happened 50 years ago. It takes up the challenge laid down by the Supreme Court and comes up with a new formula and a new approach that makes voting rights and elections more transparent and has been carefully crafted to be both effective and to pass this Congress. It is a voting rights bill that is modern, to confront modern voting rights challenges.

As a country we have come a long way since 1965, but we are not where we need to be yet. As much as we don't want to admit it or confront it, racial discrimination in voting is not a relic of the past, but a tragic reality of today. Just yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on what to do to address the loss of a key part of the Voting Rights Act that is known as preclearance.

In 2013 the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act, a bill that each and every Senate Republican voted for in 2006. Let me be clear about that. Again, in 2006 this body unanimously reauthorized the Voting Rights Act. Yet in 2013 the Supreme Court struck down an essential provision of that very act.

The Voting Rights Act and leadership to address the challenges of civil rights in this country have long been bipartisan in nature. My own family and friends who are Republicans are justifiably proud of their party's leadership role in addressing the darkest days and the biggest challenges in civil rights in the last century in this country. But today we are struggling in this body to find a single Republican cosponsor for this important and necessary bill. I ask my friends: Is this because there is nothing that remains to be done? Is that 2006 act, unanimously passed by this body, so obsolete that there is no legislative response necessary to Shelby?

I think a response is necessary. A month after the Supreme Court's decision, North Carolina passed a restrictive, a deeply restrictive, voting law that in addition to a strict photo ID requirement reduces early voting and forbids local jurisdictions flexibility in setting hours for early voting, among other restrictions. After the Shelby County decision, in Pasadena, TX, that city's voters adopted a plan to reduce the number of single-member districts from eight to six, adding two at-large representatives, a change nearly certain to reduce Latino representation on their city council. Hours after the decision, the State of Texas announced plans to implement its photo ID law that had long been blocked under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Again and again, shortly following the Shelby County decision, jurisdictions moved to implement discriminatory voting changes that had previously been blocked under section 5. Something needs to be done. I would suggest to my colleagues, if you don't like this proposal, please come forward with something you can support, with something that looks forward, not back; that has a formula that protects voting as the

most sacred and foundational right of our Republic and allows us to come together. History will not look kindly on our inaction.

Two days ago we honored the memory of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King with a Congressional Gold Medal. What better way to honor their legacy than to come together and strengthen the rights they fought so hard to secure for every American?

Voting is fundamental, and ensuring that every American has the right to vote is at the core of what makes our democracy vibrant.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and to find a way forward for us to put voting rights first and to restore the important legacy of June 19 from across so many incidents in so many years and to move us forward on a positive path.

Thank you.

Mr. President, could I ask my colleague's indulgence for one last 2-minute speech?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I was to be recognized before, but I will be glad to, but would like the 15 minutes or so I was allowed to have even though it may back up after me.

So, Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that Senator COONS be allowed an additional 2 minutes and I be allowed 15 minutes thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COONS. I object, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, when we send American Ambassadors to nearly every country around the world, we are able to strengthen democracy and protect our national security. Ambassadors are voices for American values and the interests we share with other nations. Simply put, they are critical to promoting our foreign policy, our economic and security interests, and our leadership in the world. Yet when—because of partisan politics and gridlock at home—we fail to confirm ambassadors, we send a dangerous message about our lack of interest in the world and our lack of interest to diplomacy.

I have the privilege of chairing the African Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Through my work as chair, as well as time I spent earlier in my life in Africa, I have seen up close both the incredible opportunities in the continent of Africa as well as the stark challenges.

For instance, today, this decade, 7 of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. Yet right now 1 in 5 American embassies of the 54 countries on that continent lacks a confirmed ambassador. Africa faces serious security challenges. Boko Haram in Nigeria, which has recently kidnapped hundreds of girls and burned down churches and schools is just one example. Yet as the countries bordering that troubled area of Nigeria try to coordinate a response to ensure that conflict doesn't spill over borders, we lack confirmed ambassadors in the adjacent nations of Niger and Cameroon.

In Namibia, where we also don't have a confirmed ambassador, the United States is dedicating $50 million to combat HIV and Aids. We need an ambassador to oversee those funds and make sure they are appropriately used.

I will briefly review some of the numbers and facts. Our nominees to the countries of Namibia, Cameroon, and Niger have waited for a vote for 330 days—almost a year. Our nominee to Sierra Leone has waited 352 days, our nominee to Mauritania has waited 289 days, and our nominee to Gabon has waited 287 days.

In the long absence of ambassadors, professional career Foreign Service officers, capable and competent Deputy Chiefs of Mission assume this role on an interim basis. I am deeply concerned that with the August turnover for Foreign Service officers quickly approaching, many of our embassies will also be left without a DCM at the helm.

This is inexcusable. It hurts our economy, our national security, and our leadership to leave these posts unfilled and the ambassadorial nominees unconfirmed for so long.

I have great hope for Africa's future. Across the continent there are emerging democracies, growing economies, and although there are some security challenges, I am optimistic we can meet them in partnership with Africa's leaders.

When we fail to send career public servants to serve as our ambassadors, we send the message that we are not serious about these challenges and are not willing to invest in these partnerships.

I urge my colleagues to work together across the aisle to devote ourselves to getting our ambassadorial nominees to Africa confirmed. This transcends partisanship, and it is a task we should turn to promptly.

I thank the Presiding Officer and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Alabama for allowing me to go ahead of him in cue.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, we say that America is a nation of immigrants, and, of course, that is true. There is no other country in the world for which immigration is so central to its history and its identity. Let's take a moment to reflect on what that really means.

Here is a photo. I am afraid it is not a very good quality. I took it myself. It is a photo that I took at a naturalization ceremony held for Active Duty servicemembers in Fort Carson, CO. The 13 soldiers and spouses who became U.S. citizens on that day represented 11 different countries of origin even though they are wearing our uniform.

They came from all over the world: Colombia, Haiti, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, China, the Philippines, South Korea, Togo, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. They all came for this pursuit of the American dream, and they all came to serve this country. They are going to be the people who help us determine our future.

The same is true with the refugees fleeing persecution from around the world. The parents seeking opportunity for their children and those stepping forward to serve and sacrifice for our shared values have made this country the America we love. But our existing immigration policies do not reflect this history or the values that shaped it. Instead, it is a mess of unintended consequences that hurts our businesses, rips families apart, and keeps us at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world.

Tomorrow marks 365 days—1 year—since the Senate acted to fix these problems and passed bipartisan immigration reform. Yet here we are still waiting for the House of Representatives to do the same. The House's inaction is costing our Nation. It has cost us, among other things, $13.4 billion in lost revenue in this last year alone. With each additional day that passes, we lose another $37 million of revenue.

What is most frustrating about this to me is that we agree—on both sides of the aisle—that our current immigration system is broken. We agree that our immigration system is critical for our economy and for our country.

In June of last year we passed a bill in this Chamber with strong bipartisan support. It won the support of a broad coalition of Republicans and Democrats. It also has the support of countless organizations, from migrant workers to farmers and ranchers, from law enforcement agencies to the faith community, Latino leaders across this country, and the Chamber of Commerce to labor unions.

Often I tell those who despair about the lack of leadership in Congress that there is a model we can learn from, and it is the bipartisan work that was done on this bill. I cannot say enough about the Republican Members of the Gang of 8 who negotiated a bill over seven or eight months, knowing what the base of their party might say about the fact that they were in that room but still willing to do it because it was right to do for their country and it was right to do for their party—in that order.

In this job I have had the opportunity to meet with a diverse cross section of

Coloradans throughout the State, each struggling beneath the weight of a broken immigration system. I have spoken with peach growers on the Western Slope, vegetable growers in Brighton, and melon farmers in the San Luis Valley—farmers such as Philip Davis from Mesa Winds Farm and Winery in Western Colorado who cannot get the seasonal workers he needs. He will tell you how hard he and his family have had to work to fill these gaps, and how every single day they have to keep fighting to prevent their 36-acre farm from closing.

A legal, reliable, competent workforce for our Nation's farms and ranches is essential for Colorado's $40 billion agricultural industry, and it is essential for our agricultural industry across the country. Maybe that is the reason why both the United Farm Workers union and the growers all across the United States of America endorsed this bill.

I have heard from Colorado's high-tech companies such as Full Contact, a tech startup in Boulder, CO, that acquired a company overseas. They have been unable to hire the talented engineers they need to grow their businesses and add jobs.

I have also heard from Colorado's dedicated teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to teach the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators—teachers such as Mary Edwin from Colorado Springs. Mary, a graduate of Johns Hopkins with a master's degree in education, will likely be forced to return home to Nigeria, leaving behind the children she works with at Turman Elementary School, all on account of our broken, outdated visa system.

This year on April 7, approximately 6 months before the 2015 fiscal year even begins, the government announced it had already reached its statutory cap on H–1B petitions for H–1B visas. It has also reached its exemption for 20,000 advanced-degree holders. These are exactly the type of workers our State and the national economy require.

I will paint a picture of what our country would look like if the Senate's immigration bill were actually enacted. First, millions of people who came to this country for a better life, including young people whose parents brought them here as children, would have the opportunity to enter a tough but fair pathway to citizenship. With a path in place, we would see higher wages, greater consumption of goods and increased revenue. It would reduce our debt by nearly $1 trillion—even in Washington that is real money—over 20 years, and increase our economic growth by roughly 5.4 percent over that period of time.

Next, our bill would put in place an efficient and flexible visa system that would enable us to compete in a changing 21st century global economy. Talented entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world would have the opportunity to stay here in order to create jobs and fuel our economy. High-skilled workers in math and science, and lower-skilled workers in industries such as hospitality and tourism would come into the country to fill jobs where there are no available U.S. workers.

We would provide stability for our agricultural industry with a new streamlined program for agricultural workers—one that is more usable for employers and protects our workers.

Our borders would be more secure. There is one border security bill that has passed the Congress, and that is the bill passed by the Senate. It allows for new fencing, doubling the number of border agents, and increased spending on new technology. We would have full situational awareness on the border in order to allow us to intercept threats rapidly and successfully. And with the mandatory employment verification system and more effective entry-exit system, we would prevent future waves of illegal immigration.

A huge number of people who are here entered the country legally; we just don't know where they are. We ought to have a system that tells us that. These are all changes that our Nation urgently needs.

In the time since the Senate passed the bill, we heard a litany of reasons why it can't pass the House. They say the Senate bill doesn't have support in the House. If Speaker BOEHNER put the bill on the floor tomorrow, it would pass. They say the Senate bill is too long, too big, too comprehensive. I, for one, am willing to consider looking at this bill in smaller pieces as long as all the problems with the system are addressed. But the House has not produced—never mind voted—on a single bill, much less a series of smaller bills.

They say they want more border security, but what do they know about the border that our Republican colleagues from Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN and JEFF FLAKE, don't know? What do they know about the border that Senator FLAKE and Senator MCCAIN don't know? We have 21,000 border agents, and we are putting another 21,000 on the border if this bill were passed. We spend more money on the border than we do on all other Federal law enforcement combined, but they say there is not enough border security—not that they passed a border security bill. The only folks who have passed a border security bill are right here in the Senate. We should ask them how many more agents they need, and how many more billions of dollars we should spend.

If the House wants to secure the border first, which the Senate bill does, let's see their legislation. We are waiting. I, for one, would like to see them think about customs agents and trade instead of adding more billions of dollars at the border.

The most common excuse we have heard is that the House has not had time to pass a bill. The House was only scheduled to work 9 days last September. Ultimately, they came back for a few extra days to shut the government down.

In the year since the Senate passed the bill, the House has found the time to vote 17 times to repeal, delay or dismantle the health care bill—54 times in total in the last 4 years. They voted to name 20 post offices and an assortment of 20 other government buildings. They have held five separate House committee hearings. They produced three different public reports and passed one resolution on the topic of Benghazi—a topic that has never come up in most of our town hall meetings.

What I hear in Colorado over and over is we have to stop excuses, stop posturing, and pass a bill—a good bipartisan bill, and that is what the House of Representatives ought to be doing now. Fixing our broken immigration system is long overdue, and I believe that the bipartisan solution crafted in our Senate bill will fix it just fine. It is time for the House to act.

With that, I yield the floor, and I thank my colleague, again, for his patience and kindness in allowing me to go first.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague. I would note he didn't mention and wasn't mentioned in the effort to pass the Gang of 8 bill, which was dead on arrival in the House, the American worker. The numbers just came out yesterday, a revision of the economic numbers—our gross domestic product showed a decline in the first quarter of 2.9 percent, a GDP decline of 2.9 percent, which is the largest we have seen since the recession hit—those dramatic days.

We are not creating jobs in this country. Wages are not going up. We do not need to be surging the number of immigrants coming into the country. We don't need to be passing a law such as the Gang of 8 bill that would double the H–1B workers brought into America, increase by 50 percent the annual flow, add another 500,000 so-called backlog workers, in addition to legalizing some 11 million-plus, at a time when Americans are having wages fall and jobs are very difficult to find.

For example, I would note that workforce participation levels have fallen to their lowest point since the 1970s. This is a dramatic decline in the number of people working and the numbers continue to slide. Since 2009, we have had a decline in median income for families in America of $2,300.

They suggest repeatedly that this legislation we have brought to the floor was focused primarily on melon harvesters, but that is not so. About 80 percent of the people who would be given legal status and would be allowed to come to America to work under the guest worker program would not be on the farms. They would be taking jobs in plants and factories all over America, reducing the need for businesses to increase wages for a change and try to attract people into some of these more

difficult jobs. It is not that people won't do this work; it is that the wages aren't sufficient to take care of them and their families.

We need wages to rise. We have a loose labor market, not a tight labor market. People are having a hard time finding jobs. We are talking about a dramatic increase in the number of workers at a time when the economy is struggling, workers are hurting, wages are down, and unemployment is up.

I just want to dispute that. I want to push back on it. That has been my analysis from the beginning.

Oh, we need more high-tech workers, they say, and businesses say that too. But what do the numbers show? Professor Harold Salzman at Rutgers did a report that said we are actually graduating about 500,000 STEM graduates—science, technology, engineering, mathematics—about 500,000 graduate a year, but we only have jobs for fewer than half of them. Most STEM graduates are not working in their fields. They haven't been able to find the kind of work for which they trained. One of the reasons is that a substantial number of those jobs are taken by H–1B workers who are brought in not to immigrate to America to create jobs, I say to my colleagues; they come in on the H–1B visa, which is a limited period of time, they work at lower wages, and they return to their country. They are not on a path to be permanent citizens. But it is a great asset to businesses that don't want to hire, perhaps—it seems—people and put them on a career path where they might be expected to get pay raises in the years to come.

So I will challenge even that fact. I talked to a business person recently about a factory they have. The work sounded pretty good to me. He wants to bring in foreign workers to Alabama. Well, we have unemployment in Alabama. We have people on unemployment insurance. We have people on welfare and food stamps and assistance who need to be taking those jobs.

So the first responsibility of a congress, a senate, when they consider an immigration bill is what is in the interests of the American people. I don't believe it is wrong to discuss that. We have to ask what is in our national interests, the interests of our people, and this is not a time to be doubling the H–1B workers into America. It is just not. And more and more scientific, peer-reviewed, excellent studies are coming out on that.

I see my colleague, Senator DURBIN. I know he is exceedingly busy. My intention is to make a unanimous consent request that we actually do something about the crisis we have on the border.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—S. 202 AND S. 91

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 202, the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the measure; I ask further that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

For the information of all Senators, S. 202, introduced by Senator GRASSLEY and of which I am a cosponsor, amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to make an E-Verify program permanent. This is critical to protecting jobs and wages of American workers. It requires the government to at least run a cursory computer check to determine whether a person applied for a job is legally in this country.

I renew my unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Alabama?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, a year ago today on the floor of the Senate we passed the comprehensive immigration reform bill, and 68 Senators—14 Republicans and all of the Democrats—voted for it. We sent it to the House of Representatives. Included in that bill was a requirement that all employers use a mandatory electronic employment verification system to verify that all their employees were legal. Job applicants were required to show identifying documents, such as passport, driver's license, biometric work authorization card, including a photo ID. Any employer who continued to employ undocumented immigrants faced serious penalties. That would end the hiring of undocumented workers, which the Senator from Alabama has spoken to. E-Verify, though, has to be part of comprehensive immigration reform; otherwise, it would devastate the economy and hurt innocent workers. This was included in the bill, and we said there would be no path to citizenship until we have established this as a nationwide standard to verify that workers truly were not undocumented.

That bill came to the floor a year ago. The Senator from Alabama voted against it. It passed. It went to the House of Representatives. It has languished for 1 solid year. House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER will not call that bill because he knows it will pass. We are not going to take that bill apart piece by piece, as the Senator from Alabama suggests.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the able Senator from Illinois for his articulate response. I would note that the E-Verify program should already have been fully implemented long ago. If it is so good, why don't we bring it up and pass it now? Why do we have to pass along with it a bill that will double the number of guest workers in the country and would increase immigration and also had many other flaws in it?

So I ask unanimous consent—and this will be my last unanimous consent request this evening—that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 91, the Child Tax Credit Integrity Preservation Act of 2013; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the measure; I ask further that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

For the information of all Senators, S. 91, introduced by Senator VITTER and which I cosponsored, would close a loophole in the law that permits illegal aliens to illegally and improperly receive cash tax credits from the Internal Revenue Service, according to the Treasury Department's own inspector general. The IRS sent illegal aliens $4.2 billion in additional child tax credit payments in 2010. The cost has quadrupled in 5 years. In one instance, four illegal aliens fraudulently claimed benefits for 20 children they claimed lived with them in the same trailer and received from the IRS $29,000 in refunds.

So I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the circumstance is this: If a person is legally required to pay income taxes in America, a person is legally entitled to some deductions and credits. One of those credits which a person is entitled to is a child tax credit. If a person has a minor child, that person pays less in taxes in America.

What the Senator from Alabama and this bill try to do is restrict the availability of this child tax credit to some workers in America. I think they have gone too far. I want to make sure working families with small children have the helping hand of our Tax Code. I want to stop any fraud in any program in our Tax Code, but I don't believe this bill is a balanced approach to solving the problem, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Illinois. I would have to say that the inspector general of President Obama's own U.S. Treasury Department has said this is a clear abuse. They have written a detailed letter on why it ought to be closed. I am flabbergasted and amazed that we would sit by and allow $4 billion in child tax credit payments to go out that are not justified. We have been told this. Why is it that we won't even respond to this little problem?

It is one reason I brought it up today—because I want the American people to know this Congress, this Democratic majority is not willing to

take any steps to confront the problems we have with regard to immigration unless they get a massive increase that satisfies activist groups, business interests, and their own political interests.

It is not in the interests of the American people. We need to do the right thing for our country based on law, on principles, on fairness. That is what we need to do. People who come to the country illegally aren't entitled to get child tax credits. I would think certainly not for children who don't exist. Nobody is going out and checking to see if children are in the home. They are just claiming this. The numbers have surged in recent years. The inspector general expressed great concern about that—how it went from $1 billion to $4 billion. That is a lot of money, $4 billion in 1 year, subsidizing, encouraging further illegal entry into America.

The first thing any country ought to do to control its borders, its sovereignty, its legal integrity, is not to provide financial benefit to people who violate the law and then give them benefits that are unlawful. That is beyond comprehension.

I want to say to my colleagues, the last few weeks it is becoming more and more clear that we have chaos at the border—all a direct result of the President and his administrative officials who have told the world we have no intention, basically, of deporting people who enter the country unlawfully, particularly the young people. And has that been heard? Have people around the world heard what has been said? Yes. And they are coming in unbelievable numbers, creating a humanitarian crisis, creating a crisis of law for America, and creating a financial crisis. The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget request $868 million for the Unaccompanied Alien Children program at HHS. Now that cost is expected to be $2.28 billion, based on the numbers today. In 2011 there were 6,000 apprehended children trying to come into America illegally. This year they say it could reach 90,000 or higher. 90,000 from 6,000? It is a direct result of the unwillingness of President Obama to look the American people in the eye, tell the people throughout the entire world: We believe in immigration. We have a lawful system of immigration. Please apply. Wait your turn. If you qualify, you will be able to come to America, and we are going to do it fairly and objectively and treat everybody with respect, but do not come unlawfully. Do not give money to some smuggler. Do not attempt to sneak over our border across the desert and place your lives at risk because it is against our law, and we will apprehend you and we will promptly deport you and you will lose all the money you have invested in this effort. Just do not do it.

They refuse to say that with clarity. Secretary Johnson was before the Judiciary Committee and I asked him about it. He almost refused to say: Don't come to America because it is against our law. He said: Don't come because it is dangerous. That is not the kind of message we need to hear from our leaders. The first thing a law enforcement officer should do—and the President is the chief law enforcement officer—but the Secretary of Homeland Security has the Border Patrol, he has Immigration and Customs enforcement officers, he has the Citizenship and Immigration Service. That is who is supposed to be enforcing our immigration law. He will not say that with clarity and he will not communicate it with clarity.

Vice President BIDEN supposedly made a statement in Central America about it. It was weak. It just was not strong. What is it? Do they want the illegality to continue? Do they believe in open borders? This Congress, this Senate is about to recess having done not one thing about it, and the humanitarian crisis continues on the border.

These children, some of them are young. Some of them are 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and they claim to be 17. Who knows. They are not carrying birth certificates with them. It is creating an incredible crisis. One reporter said the Border Patrol, instead of enforcing the law, are changing diapers. This is a very dangerous situation. Our entire legal system is crumbling about us, and the chief law enforcement officer in America—the President—alone is the one who can bring order to it.

The Secretary of Homeland Security works for the President. If he does not get on it, he needs to be out of there. The President needs to say: Get this thing under control. What are we paying you for?

What about the officers and agents? What do they think? Our officers and agents are stunned. There is report after report of senior officers saying they have never seen anything like this. It is a direct result of the inconsistent message we are sending. They are saying a message is only part of the solution. It has to be backed up with words.

So how is it happening today? A child and an adult cross the border. What are they doing today? They are going straight up—this is, I know, hard to believe—they go straight to the Border Patrol officer and turn themselves in. What does the Immigration officer do? He takes them into custody. If they have a child, the adult has to stay with the child, and then they put them in a shelter. Then they give them a hearing date. The hearing date is down the road. They have a backlog. So what do they do then? They release them. They allow them to go someplace where somebody will take them in, which is what they desire to begin with. Then they are told to appear at court at some given date in the future.

Nobody is going to investigate if they do not show up, or to see where they are, and there is nobody to investigate it. We are talking about a huge increase—by tens of thousands—of people coming into the country, in addition to the 11 million who are already here. So this is a guaranteed failure. That is what everybody has been telling us who knows anything about it.

The ICE officers, the Immigration and Customs enforcement officers—their association went so far two years ago to file a lawsuit in Federal court. What did they say? They said this administration is violating the laws of America and the Constitution by directing them not to enforce the laws they had sworn to uphold. The Federal judge was very sympathetic with them. He eventually ruled there was not standing for this lawsuit to proceed, but he was very sympathetic with the merits of their claim because that is exactly what has happened.

We have a situation where the President of the United States, based on the DREAM Act—the idea that we would provide legal status to everybody who was brought here under, I think, 18, that we would provide basically a legal status and a pathway to citizenship—that bill came up before the Senate and has been voted down three times by the Senate.

So what did the President do? He directed that the law not be enforced as to them, even though the law remains on the books. That is part of the message that was heard in Central America, and that is encouraging people to come unlawfully to America.

So we are not against immigration. We do need a certain number of farmworkers. We do need and will accept validated people who come with skills who are ready to go to work. We should do that, and we have a generous policy, but we should not be doubling it, as the Gang of 8 bill did. We just do not have the jobs for them. If we had low unemployment, rising wages, and a shortage of workers, I think we could justify a generous immigration policy perhaps but not now. Canada is not doing this. England is not doing this. They are reducing, right now, the number of people who are allowed into their countries. They feel an obligation to see that their people get the jobs first.

The whole matter is disturbing to me, that we are at a point where the law is not being enforced properly in this country.

RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled against the President's unconstitutional recess appointments in a dramatic repudiation of the White House's position. Nine to zero they ruled. It was an obvious decision, in my opinion. It was breathtaking that the President of the United States would appoint members to the National Labor Relations Board who have to come before the Senate for confirmation under the Constitution—we have the advice and consent authority—and he did not want to do that, so he just appointed them and claimed we were in recess. We were

not in recess. It was not a close question. He just did it. So it took over 2 years of a lawsuit, and finally the Supreme Court has now ruled. A lower court ruled against the President some months ago. The President clearly and deliberately violated article II of the Constitution in circumventing the advice and consent clause.

At the time of these appointments, the Senate had determined it was not in recess. We determined we were not in recess, and the Court affirmed that determination. The question of whether the Senate is in session is up to the Senate, not the President. So the President has to yield to the Senate's authority to determine its own rules and procedures. This is basic law, it seems to me.

Unfortunately, the President has made it clear that he will only follow the letter of the law when it is not an impediment to whatever agenda he has at the time.

Just today, the White House displayed again its lack of respect for our constitutional traditions. In a rather brazen display of candor, the new White House spokesman today explained the administration's rationale for moving unilaterally to rewrite America's immigration laws. Here is what Josh Earnest had to say. Hear me, colleagues. This is a direct threat to the integrity of our constitutional separation of powers. It is not far different from what the President said before, but it was today.

> [W]e're not just going to sit around and wait interminably for Congress. . . .

How about that: We are not going to sit around and wait on Congress. We do not have to fool with Congress.

We have been waiting 1 year already. The President has tasked his Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson with reviewing what options are available to the President, what is at his disposal using his Executive authority to try to address some of the problems that have been created by our broken immigration system.

So this is about as close as you can get to an open admission that the administration does not believe it has an obligation to follow the law. You cannot just eviscerate whole code sections of the law claiming that you have authority to decide what you want to prosecute and what you do not. Jonathan Turley, the great law professor, has hammered this idea. He is a liberal. He voted for President Obama in 2008. He has hammered this idea. This is an abuse of Executive power.

We are seeing the results of this on our borders right now. In 2011, we had 6,000 illegal immigrant youth from Central America apprehended. This year, we may hit more than 90,000. Next year, projections are as high as 130,000, costing billions of dollars to take care of them. That would be more than a 2,000-percent increase.

The President's policies are directly responsible for this crisis. They just are. He has acted unilaterally to suspend immigration enforcement and has sent the signal to the world that our borders are open and that if you get here unlawfully and borough in, you will be able to stay here.

As former ICE Director John Sandweg said: ''If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero.''

I asked Homeland Secretary Johnson about this during his testimony, to say clearly to the world: Do not come unlawfully. You must follow the laws of the country. If you come unlawfully, you will be sent back home. He refused to even say that in my presence with any clarity.

Here is what the New York Times reported on April 10:

> With detention facilities, asylum offices and immigration courts overwhelmed, enough migrants have been released temporarily in the United States that back home in Central America people have heard that those who make it to American soil have a good chance of staying. ''Word has gotten out that we're giving people permission and walking them out the door,'' said Chris Cabrera, a Border Patrol agent who is vice president of the local of the National Border Patrol Council, the agent's union. ''So they're coming across in droves.''

That is exactly what has happened. It is a national tragedy. It is a human tragedy for those children. It is costing them money, placing their lives at risk, and we are not able to handle them effectively.

Colleagues, I have a timeline over 17 pages long of the ways systematically this administration has ignored or simply suspended immigration law by issuing orders to the officers not to do their duty essentially.

So 1 week before the Fourth of July holiday, America cannot even protect its own borders, and what do our Democratic colleagues wish to do? They want to adjourn this Chamber, go home to their barbecues, work on their reelection campaigns, and promise while they are home they are fighting to end the lawlessness at the border, while doing nothing, while actually doing nothing but objecting to legislation that would make a real difference.

I see my colleague Senator SANDERS and I will wrap up.

I believe we were elected, colleagues, to protect this country and its people and the laws of our country. A critical component of national sovereignty is a control over your borders. We have passed immigration laws that are on the books and not being enforced. We on the Republican side have opposed immigration laws that would reduce the illegality that cannot even see the light of day on the floor of the Senate.

So I am asking my colleagues, we ought to stay here. Why do we not stay here and work on this crisis? I intend to request that we do so—and have done so—and offered unanimous consents to bring up legislation that would help improve the situation. But that has been objected to.

Our taxpayers are overstressed. If we want to get this country back on track, we need to control this border and enforce the Nation's laws in a fair and equitable way that allows generous immigration to America, that treats people fairly and decently, but is not an open border, where people can come by the tens of thousands unlawfully.

How can any of us relax at an Independence Day barbeque next week knowing at this very moment the Nation's sovereignty is being eroded? I think we have failed in our session. We have not responded to the crisis that is on our border. We could have made real progress. But there is a lack of will and a lack of willingness to act. I am disappointed to see that fact.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I would hope that every American understands that the cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired or when the last missiles are launched. The cost of war continues until the last veteran receives the care and benefits he or she has earned on the battlefield.

War is an incredibly expensive proposition in terms of human life, human suffering, and in financial terms. In my very strong view, if we are not prepared to take care of those men and women who went to war, then we should not send them to war in the first place. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war, period.

In terms of Iraq and Afghanistan, the human cost of those wars is almost 7,000 dead. The cost of war is 530,000 veterans seeking care at the VA in 2013 for post-traumatic stress disorder, not to mention those struggling with traumatic brain injury.

The cost of war is too many servicemembers coming home with missing arms and legs, lost eyesight, or lost hearing. The cost of war includes veterans each day dying by suicide, high rates of divorce, wives trying to rebuild their lives after losing their husbands, kids growing up in one-parent homes, and a too high rate of unemployment for returning servicemembers. Those are some of the real costs of war that this Congress cannot ignore.

Several weeks ago, Senator MCCAIN and I hammered out an agreement which I think goes a significant way to address many of the serious problems facing the VA. I am very proud that the Sanders-McCain bill passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, with a vote of 93 to 3. In terms of funding, very importantly, by a vote of 75 to 19, an overwhelming vote, the Senate made it crystal clear that the current crisis in the VA, the crisis facing veterans who are not getting health care in a timely manner, is an emergency and should be paid for through emergency funding. I am very proud that in a bipartisan way the Senate made that important vote.

In the last 4 years we have seen a significant increase in the number of veterans utilizing VA health care. In addition, many of our other veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam require a greater amount of care as they age.

Further, a recent VA audit revealed that more than 57,000 veterans are on too-long waiting lists in order to be scheduled for medical appointments.

In addition to that, there are many other veterans who were never put on a list in the first place, which is what this whole scandal is largely about.

Clearly, these waiting lists and veterans not getting care in a timely manner are unacceptable and must be dealt with immediately, not 6 months from now, not a year from now, not in a great debate about national priorities. This is a crisis which must be dealt with now. I could not agree with Senator JOHN MCCAIN more when he said on the Senate floor during this debate:

If there is a definition of emergency, I would say that this legislation fits that. It is an emergency. It is an emergency what is happening to our veterans and the men and women who have served this country. We need to pass this legislation and get it to conference with the House as soon as possible.

Senator MCCAIN is right. I concur with what he said. We need to get this legislation moving as soon as possible and get it to the President's desk. Veterans in this country must get quality care and they must get that health care in a timely manner. We need to provide the funding the VA needs to accomplish that goal and do it as quickly as we can.

The simple truth is that the VA needs more doctors, the VA needs more nurses, it needs more mental health providers, and in certain parts of this country more space for a growing patient population. That is the reality.

Does the Veterans' Administration need better management? You bet it does. Does it need to be more efficient, more accountable? Absolutely. But at the end of the day, if you do not have the doctors and the nurses and the medical staff you need, there will continue to be waiting lines unacceptably long and veterans will not get the care they need.

I received, as did the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, a letter on June 17 which was signed by virtually every major veterans organization. That is the American Legion, the DAV, the VFW, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, and many other organizations. They made a number of very important points in their letter talking about the kind of legislation we need to pass. I want to quote from one section of their letter, which they entitled ''Protect and Preserve the VA Health Care System.''

Any legislative, regulatory or administrative changes designed to respond to the VA health access crisis, whether temporary or permanent, must protect, preserve and strengthen the VA health care system so that it remains capable of providing a full continuum of high-quality, timely health care to all enrolled veterans . . .

Then the letter continues:

Unless the legislation simultaneously sets VA on a path to intelligently strengthen health care delivery, expand access and capacity, reallocate resources and ensure that overall VA funding matches its mission, the current problems confronting VA and veterans will inevitably recur.

In other words, what they are saying is that unless we strengthen the VA, give them the staffing and the space they need, this problem of waiting periods of time will continue. In order to address the long waiting periods, the Senate legislation says to veterans around the country that if you cannot get into a VA facility in a timely manner, you will be able to get the care you need outside of the VA. That means access to private doctors, community health centers, or Department of Defense or Indian Health Service facilities.

Furthermore, what the bill says is to veterans who live 40 miles or more from a VA facility, that if they choose, they also have the option of seeking care outside of the VA.

Just as the letter from the veterans service organizations articulated, it is critical to address the current waiting period crisis. But we also have to make sure that that crisis does not continue to occur. We do that by providing the VA the tools it needs to ensure sufficient capacity for veterans seeking care at VA medical facilities. Clearly, no medical program can work unless we have the necessary medical staff.

Today, the VA has thousands of vacancies for health care providers. These vacancies, along with an untold shortage of health care providers to meet the demands of veterans who want to get VA care, has a direct impact on the ability to get veterans in the door for appointments. To fill these positions, the Senate bill provides for the hiring of VA doctors and nurses, and it does so in an expedited fashion by ensuring VA's hiring efforts are not hamstrung by Federal bureaucracy.

During the discussion of VA health care, let us not forget that today alone some 230,000 veterans will walk in the doors of VA facilities for health care—230,000 veterans today, 6.5 million veterans in a year. While it is absolutely true that not every veteran is satisfied by the care he or she is getting, the overwhelming majority—well over 90 percent of them—believe they receive high quality care. Over and over, I hear from Vermont veterans and veterans across the country who say that once they get into the system the care is good.

That is just not my view, it is the view of virtually all of the major veterans organizations and a number of independent studies that have compared VA health care with that in the private sector. We owe it to these veterans, to our veterans, to fix the current problems and bolster the system to ensure that quality care is available in the VA for years and decades to come.

I have heard a lot of criticism of the VA. Much of that criticism is valid. But when we talk about VA health care, we must put it in the context of health care in the United States of America. Does anyone seriously believe the VA is the only health care institution in America that has problems? It is absolutely the case that not everybody outside of the VA gets timely, quality, affordable health care. That is just not the reality.

Today some 40 million Americans have no health insurance. According to a Harvard study of a few years ago, 45,000 Americans die each year because they do not get to the doctor when they should. That is outside of the VA.

But it is more than that. Let me read you a few headlines from the last couple of weeks. I make this point not to argue the whole health care debate again but to say that anyone who thinks it is only the VA that has health care problems does not understand what is happening with health care in America.

Here is a quote from a few weeks ago.

A report released Monday by a respected think tank—

That is the Commonwealth Fund.

—ranks the United States dead last in the quality of its health care system when compared with ten other Western industrialized nations.

Then the report further tells us that the United States has maintained this dubious distinction while spending far more per capita on health care than any other country. We are spending far more on health care than any other country.

Let me read you another headline published September 20, 2013 by FierceHealthCare. ''Hospital Medical Errors Now the Third Leading Cause of Death in US.''

Medical errors leading to patient death are much higher than previously thought and may be as high as 400,000 deaths a year, according to a new study in the Journal of Patient Safety.

I mention all of this to make clear that the VA, of course, has its problems. Our job is to strengthen the VA, to provide better accountability, to make sure that incompetent and dishonest people are not working in the VA. But we also have to make sure the VA has the doctors, the nurses, and the other health care providers it needs in order to provide the quality of care our veterans deserve.

The last point I want to make. I hope very much the House will agree with the Senate that we are in an emergency.

It is absolutely imperative that we move as quickly as possible to get the funding we need so that all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system get quality care in a timely manner.

I hope very much that we don't once again have a major debate about whether we are going to cut food

stamps or education or roads and bridges in order to fund the Veterans' Administration. When this Congress voted to go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, it said that it was an emergency. Some of us disagreed with that, and I don't want to debate the Iraq war again, but when Congress said it is an emergency that we go to war, well, if it is an emergency that we go to war, it is more of an emergency that we take care of the men and women who fought in those wars. If you don't believe that is the case, don't send Americans off to war. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war.

I hope very much that we don't go back to the same old, same old of having a debate where some people say: Well, if you want to fund VA health care, you are going to have to cut education or cut Medicaid or cut Medicare or cut some other program. That is not the issue. This is an emergency. Our veterans have put their lives on the line. Now is the time for us to defend them, and we have to get this legislation moving.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Texas.

ISRAELI KIDNAPPING

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to talk about three young boys—three young boys who are now in the hands of terrorists. This should be on the front page of every paper in the United States because this is an issue that is as vital to us as it is to the nation of Israel.

On Thursday night, June 12, three Jewish teenagers—Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaar and Eyal Yifrah—were kidnapped. You can see all three of these boys in the photos beside me.

Today, Thursday June 26, marks the 14th day of their abduction. Just imagine if these were your children or any child you know. Just imagine if it were your child who was kidnapped for 14 days and you don't know where they are or even whether they are still alive.

These boys—all smart, hard-working, diligent students—were taken on their way home from school. They were waiting at the bus stop. They were only 5 minutes away from their school—one of the finest yeshivas in Israel. These boys weren't doing anything wrong. They are innocent schoolchildren.

Yet today it has been reported that Israel's Shin Bet identified two key suspects in the abduction. These two individuals are members of Hamas—a vicious terrorist organization that seeks Israel's destruction and has launched thousands of rockets into Israel, killing innocent civilians. These rockets have also killed dozens of Americans in Israel. Now they have kidnapped three school boys. Sadly, this is business as usual for Hamas. This is the same terrorist organization with which the Palestinian Authority recently joined in a so-called ''unity'' government.

Israel has been tirelessly looking for these two men since the kidnapping. They come from families who have broader ties to Hamas. In a telling statement to the Times of Israel, the mother of one of the two alleged terrorists claims she did not know of her son's actions, but she said she would be ''proud of him and hoped he would continue to evade capture.'' A mother, proud of her son for kidnapping three school boys.

Hamas leader Khaled Mashal spoke about the kidnappings on Monday, saying, ''I bless those who did it because it is a moral obligation to free prisoners from Israeli jails.'' This is a leader of Hamas now parked effectively in the unity government of the Palestinian Authority blessing those who have kidnapped three school boys because this is the kind of activity that Hamas terrorists support, the kidnapping of innocent schoolchildren.

Since the kidnapping, there have been no pictures or videos made available of the kidnapped boys. Their families are in the dark without any knowledge of where their boys are or what conditions they are being held in.

Rachel Fraenkel, the mother of Naftali Fraenkel, spoke before the United Nations Human Rights Council on June 24. Rachel said:

> My son texted me—said he's on his way home—and then he's gone. Every mother's nightmare is waiting and waiting endlessly for her child to come home.

She then pleaded for more action to be taken to find the boys, concluding:

> We just want them back in our homes, in their beds. We just want to hug them . . .

All of us should stand with Rachel as she stands with her son who has been kidnapped.

I also want to tell the world about these three boys.

Rachel's son Naftali is 16 years old. His grandparents have lived in Brooklyn, and Brooklyn has been a second home to him. He is the oldest of seven children. He likes playing the guitar, basketball, and Ping-Pong. Indeed, there is even a video of him on YouTube playing Ping-Pong. I have to say he is pretty good. He is a talented and gifted student who is on track to take the biology matriculation exams. His teachers say Naftali is brilliant, one of the best they have ever had, and his mother said his personality is a delightful combination of both serious and fun.

Gilad Shaar, who was with Naftali that day—also coming home from school—was likewise abducted. Like Naftali, Gilad is 16 years old. ''Gil'' means happiness and ''ad'' means forever. His name literally means ''happiness forever,'' and he is a source of joy to those who meet him.

His aunt Leehy Shaar, whom I had the privilege of meeting and visiting earlier this week, said, ''He has a smile that brings light to the world''—quite fitting for a boy named ''happiness forever.'' She said, ''We want him home where he belongs, with his family, who so dearly loves him.''

Gilad has five sisters, and he is described by them as a caring and loving brother. He is the family's only son, and he has family in Los Angeles and in New York. Gilad is witty. He loves to read, watch movies, and recently he finished a scuba diving course, but he is also a talented cook. He enjoys baking his sisters cakes and pastries.

We don't know where Gilad is right now.

Then there is Eyal Yifrah, the third boy kidnapped that day. He is 19 years old and is the oldest of six children. He is a role model for their family, and he is loved by friends who say they would like to have him as a brother. He loves sports. He should be cheering the World Cup games today—like so many other teenagers—with his friends. A gregarious fellow, he likes to cook, travel, play guitar, and sing. Indeed, you can find videos of him on YouTube singing a song that he himself wrote. Eyal should be home singing again.

There can be no more illusions that Hamas has any role in any future government formed by the Palestinian Authority. They must not receive any further recognition or legitimization. Hamas is a violent terrorist organization ready and eager to brutalize the most innocent. Hamas is a terrorist organization that kidnapped three innocent school boys.

Hamas, give those boys back.

Hamas, give those boys back now.

The full weight of the world should bear down on Hamas to give them back safely and immediately. If they do not, we should use all available means to stand unequivocally with Israel for however long it takes to find these boys and to bring them home. These are teenagers who were targeted for who they are, who have done no wrong, who have done nothing that comes near to deserving what happened to them that day while waiting at the bus stop to go home from school.

It is easy for us to become desensitized to violence, desensitized to terrorism. It is easy for us to forget that these are three teenage boys whose families desperately want their boys back. I ask that all of us lift them up in prayer. I pray for their safe return. I pray they will soon be home with the families who so dearly love them and miss them, and I pray that God will cover them with a shield of heavenly protection. I pray that America will stand strong, will shine a light and do everything possible to apprehend the terrorists and bring these boys home.

Thank you, and God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business, and I appreciate the wonderful courtesy of my friend Senator CARL LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S.-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, next week I look forward to traveling to India, where I look forward to meeting with Prime Minister Modi, his national security team, and other Indian leaders. I am excited to be returning to New Delhi, and I am so hopeful about what the Prime Minister's election could mean for the revitalization of India's economy, its rising power, and for the renewal of the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

National elections in India are always a remarkable affair. Over several weeks hundreds of millions of people peacefully elect their leaders—the largest exercise of democracy on the planet. But even by Indian standards, the recent election that brought to power Prime Minister Modi and his party, the BJP, was a landmark event. It was the first time in 30 years that one Indian political party won enough seats to govern without forming a coalition with another party. This gives the Prime Minister a historic mandate for change, which Indians clearly crave.

I want Prime Minister Modi to succeed because I want India to succeed. It is no secret that the past few years have been challenging ones for India—political gridlock, a flagging economy, financial difficulties, and more. It is not my place or that of any other American to tell India how to realize its full potential. That is for the Indians to decide. Our concern is simply that India does realize its full potential, for the United States has a stake in India's success. Indeed, a strong, confident, and future-oriented India is indispensable for a vibrant U.S.-India strategic partnership.

It is also no secret that India and the United States have not been reaching our full potential as strategic partners over the past few years, and there is plenty of blame to be shared on both sides for that. Too often recently we have slipped back into a transactional relationship, one defined more by competitive concession seeking than by achieving shared strategic goals.

We need to lift our sights again. To help us do so, I think we need to remind ourselves why the United States and India embarked on this partnership in the first place. It was never simply about the personalities involved, although the personal commitment of leaders in both countries has been indispensable at every turn. No, the real reason India and the United States have resolved to develop the strategic partnership is because each country has determined independently that doing so is in its national interests.

It is because we have been guided by our national interests that the progress of our partnership has consistently enjoyed bipartisan support in the United States and in India.

This endeavor began with closer cooperation between a Democratic administration in Washington and a BJP-led government in New Delhi. It deepened dramatically during the last decade under a Republican and a Congress-led government. It reached historic heights with the conclusion of our civil nuclear agreement—thanks to the bold leadership of President Bush and Prime Minister Singh. This foundation of shared national interests has sustained our partnership under President Obama, and it is the common ground on which we can build for the future as a new prime minister takes office in New Delhi.

When it comes to the national interests of the United States, the logic of a strategic partnership with India is powerful. India will soon become the world's most populous nation. It has a young, increasingly skilled workforce that can lead India to become one of the world's largest economies. It is a nuclear power and possesses the world's second largest military, which is becoming even more capable and technologically sophisticated. It shares strategic interests with us on issues as diverse and vital as defeating terrorism and extremism, strengthening a rules-based international order in Asia, securing global energy supplies, and sustaining global economic growth.

India and the United States not only share common interests, we also share common values, the values of human rights, individual liberty, and democratic limits on state power, but also the values of our societies—creativity and critical thinking, risk-taking and entrepreneurialism and social mobility—values that continue to deepen the interdependence of our peoples across every field of human endeavor. It is because of these shared values we are confident that India's continued rise as a democratic great power—whether tomorrow or 25 years from now—will be peaceful and thus can advance critical U.S. national interests. That is why, contrary to the old dictates of realpolitik, we seek not to limit India's rise but to bolster and catalyze it—economically, geopolitically, and, yes, militarily.

It is my hope that Prime Minister Modi and his government will recognize how a deeper strategic partnership with the United States serves India's national interests, especially in light of current economic and geopolitical challenges.

For example, a top priority for India is the modernization of its armed forces. This is an area where U.S. defense capabilities, technologies, and cooperation—especially between our defense industries—can benefit India enormously. Similarly, greater bilateral trade and investment can be a key driver of economic growth in India, which seems to be what Indian citizens want most from their new government. Likewise, as India seeks to further its ''Look East'' policy and deepen its relationships with major like-minded powers in Asia—especially Japan, but also Australia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam. Those countries are often U.S. allies and partners as well, and our collective ability to work in concert can only magnify India's influence and advance its interests.

Put simply, I see three strategic interests that India and the United States clearly share, and these should be the priorities of a reinvigorated partnership:

First, to shape the development of South Asia as a region of sovereign democratic states that contribute to one another's security and prosperity; second, to create a preponderance of power in the Asia-Pacific region that favors free societies, free markets, free trade, and free comments; and, finally, to strengthen a liberal international order and an open global economy that safeguards human dignity and fosters peaceful development.

As we seek to take our strategic partnership with India to the next level, it is important for U.S. leaders to reach out personally to Prime Minister Modi, especially in light of recent history. That is largely why I am traveling to India next week, and that is why I am pleased President Obama invited the Prime Minister to visit Washington. I wish he had extended that invitation sooner, but it is positive nonetheless. When the Prime Minister comes to Washington, I urge our congressional leaders to invite him to address a joint session of Congress. I can imagine no more compelling scene than the elected leader of the world's largest democracy addressing the elected representatives of the world's oldest democracy.

Yet we must be clear-eyed about those issues that could weaken our strategic partnership. One is Afghanistan. Before it was a safe haven for the terrorists who attacked America on September 11, 2001, Afghanistan was a base of terrorists that targeted India. Our Indian friends remember this well, even if we do not. For this reason I am deeply concerned about the consequences of the President's plan to pull all of our troops out of Afghanistan by 2016, not only for U.S. national security but also for the national security of our friends in India.

If Afghanistan goes the way of Iraq in the absence of U.S. forces, it would leave India with a clear and present danger on its periphery. It would constrain India's rise and its ability to devote resources and attention to shared foreign policy challenges elsewhere in Asia and beyond. It could push India toward deeper cooperation with Russia and Iran in order to manage the threats posed by a deteriorating Afghanistan. And it would erode India's perception of the credibility and capability of U.S. power and America's reliability as a strategic partner.

The bottom line here is clear: India and the United States have a shared interest in working together to end the scourge of extremism and terrorism that threatens stability, freedom, and prosperity across South Asia and beyond. The President's current plan to

disengage from Afghanistan is a step backward from this goal, and thus does not serve the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

For all of these reasons and more, I hope the President will be open to reevaluating and revising his withdrawal plan in light of conditions on the ground.

Another hurdle on which our partnership could stumble is our resolve to see it through amid domestic political concerns and short-term priorities that threaten to push our nations apart. For most of the last century, the logic of a U.S.-India partnership was compelling, but its achievements eluded us. We have finally begun to explore the real potential of this partnership over the past two decades, but we have barely scratched the surface, and the gains we have made remain fragile and reversible, as our largely stalled progress over the past few years can attest.

If India and the United States are to build a truly strategic partnership, we must each commit to it and defend it in equal measure. We must each build the public support needed to sustain our strategic priorities, and we must resist the domestic forces in each of our countries that would turn our strategic relationship into a transactional one—one defined not by the shared strategic goals we achieved together but by what parochial concessions we extract from one another. If we fail in these challenges, we will fall far short of our potential, as we have before.

It is this simple: If the 21st century is defined more by peace than war, more by prosperity than misery, and more by freedom than tyranny, I believe future historians will look back and point to the fact that a strategic partnership was consummated between the world's two preeminent democratic powers: India and the United States. If we keep this vision of our relationship always uppermost in our minds, there is no dispute we cannot resolve, no investment in each other's success we cannot make, and nothing we cannot accomplish together.

I thank my beloved friend from Michigan for allowing me to speak, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Arizona for not only his remarks but also the thoughtfulness of his remarks on the U.S.-India relationship. I listened to them carefully and am glad to join in and look forward to his report. We have had a historic relationship with India as the two preeminent democracies, and we have a great opportunity to build on this relationship. I know my friend from Arizona has contributed vitally to that effort.

IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN. Recent events in Iraq have created great concern. The territorial gains by the ISIL, a violent extremist group, are not just a threat to Iraq's security but a security challenge to the entire region, and indeed to the United States. By its words and deeds, ISIL has made clear that it is deeply hostile to American interests and to universal values of freedom and human rights. That hostility can easily translate into plans and threats against us.

Faced by these developments, President Obama's decision to send a small number of U.S. military advisers is prudent. They will help assess the situation on the ground, they will support Iraqi efforts to defeat the Islamic militants Iraq faces, and help the Iraqis make best use of the intelligence support we are providing.

The President is right to say that U.S. troops will not return to ground combat in Iraq. The President is also right to say it is not our place to choose Iraq's leaders, because doing so is only likely to feed distrust and suspicion, and there is already too much of that in Iraq and in the Middle East.

What we can do is promote moves toward the political unity that is so essential for Iraq if it is going to weather the crisis and make progress toward a stable, democratic society. The problem in Iraq has not been a lack of direct U.S. military involvement but, rather, a lack of inclusiveness on the part of Iraqi leaders. That is why I believe we should not consider any direct action on our part, such as air strikes, unless three very specific conditions have been met:

First, that our military leaders tell us we have effective options that can help change the momentum on the ground in Iraq. In other words, only if our military leaders believe we can identify high-value targets—that striking them could have a measurable impact on the ability of the Iraqi security forces to stop and reverse the advances of the ISIL on the ground, and that we can strike them with minimal risk of civilian casualties and without dragging us further into the conflict.

Second, any additional military action on our part should come only with the clear public support of our friends and allies in the region—particularly moderate Arab leaders of neighboring countries. The United States has engaged in a comprehensive diplomatic effort to coordinate our response with Iraq's neighbors. If our strategy is to have the effect we want, it is essential that we have broad support in the region.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we should not act unless leaders of all elements of Iraqi society—Shia, Sunni, Kurds, and religious minorities—join together in a formal request for more direct support.

There is an obvious need for Iraqi leaders to form an inclusive unity government for their country's long-term success. But that process is likely to take some time, weeks or even months. But a unified formal statement requesting our further military assistance would be an important signal that Iraq's leaders understand the need to come together.

It could not only be a sign that additional action on our part would be effective but also could be an important step toward creation of a national unity government.

So far, the signs that Iraqi leaders are prepared to take the steps they need to take are mixed at best. Prime Minister Maliki, who has too often governed in a sectarian and authoritarian manner, delivered a speech recently in which he said national unity is essential to confront ISIL—which is true—but then he signaled little willingness to reach out to other groups. A number of prominent Shia leaders portrayed the conflict in starkly sectarian terms, and Shia militias, including those under the control of Moktada al-Sadr, have marched through the streets of Baghdad. There is little doubt also that Iran is pursuing its own sectarian agenda in the region. Some Iraqi Sunni leaders too have made statements that promote sectarian interests over the common good, and there are also fears that the Kurdish minority may exploit the situation. But on the other hand there have also been some signs that the Iraqi leaders recognize the need to confront the ISIL threat not as Sunnis or Shia or Kurds but together as Iraqis.

Iraq's most influential Shia clerk, Ali Sistani, has called on all Iraqis ''to exercise the highest degree of restraint and work on strengthening the bonds of love between each other, and to avoid any kind of sectarian behavior that may affect the unity of the Iraqi nation,'' spreading the message that ''this army [the Iraqi Army] does not belong to the Shia. It belongs to all of Iraq. It is for the Shia, the Sunni, the Kurds and the Christians.'' That is the message from Ali Sistani—a very powerful message and a unifying message in contrast to the messages that should come, for instance, from Mr. Sadr.

The United States has national security interests in Iraq, but further military involvement there will not serve those interests unless Iraq begins to move toward the inclusiveness and unity that is necessary if our involvement is to have a positive impact. Put another way, we cannot save Iraqis from themselves. Only if Iraq's leaders begin to unify their nation can help from us really matter.

The ISIL is a vicious enemy. It is also the common enemy of all Iraqis—of all Iraqis and of Iraq's neighbors. If this vicious common enemy cannot unite Iraqis in a common cause, than our assistance, including airstrikes, won't matter. Only a unified Iraq governed by elected leaders who seek to rule in the interest of all their people can stand up to this threat.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, before I begin, I want to pay tribute to

my friend and former colleague Howard Baker. I was honored to work with him in the Senate and later worked closely with him when he was President Reagan's White House Chief of Staff. He loved the Senate, and he built an impressive leadership role as majority leader. He was a skilled negotiator, an honest broker, an effective legislator, and a great steward of this institution.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker, an incredible woman, a dear friend, and a respected colleague as well. It was truly a privilege to learn from and serve alongside Howard, and I know I am far from alone among his many friends and colleagues in missing him deeply. We miss Nancy too. It was wonderful to see the two of them together. They cared a great deal for each other. He was a wonderful man, she is a wonderful woman, and I personally love both of them. We will miss him.

ADVICE AND CONSENT

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to commend the holding of the Supreme Court's decision this morning in NLRB vs. Noel Canning. The Court's decision is a critical victory for the principle that we are a nation of laws, not of men. It is a vindication of the fundamental notion that the Constitution binds us all, including even the President, and it is a triumph for the rightful prerogatives of this institution, the U.S. Senate, the authority of which has been under siege throughout the Obama years.

One of the most important powers endowed in this body by the Constitution is the requirement that nominations of principal officers receive the advice and consent of the Senate. The confirmation process provides Members of the Senate with a wide range of tools—up to and including outright refusal to confirm a nominee—in order to influence the proper execution of the laws we pass. When aggregated, these tools amount to a critical check on the workings of the executive branch.

The Senate's advice and consent rule did not rise from accident—far from it. As the Supreme Court has explained, quoting the famed historian Gordon Wood, ''The manipulation of official appointments had long been one of the American revolutionary generation's greatest grievances against executive power, because the power of appointment to offices was deemed the most insidious and powerful weapon of 18th century despotism.''

The Founders' worry about the dangers of the Executive appointment power should ring true today given many of the Obama administration's actions, including a radical set of National Labor Relations Board nominees who promised to tip the balance of the Board toward an extreme and divisive agenda, hurting both employers and employees, and a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director nominee poised to exercise unprecedented and unchecked power thanks to the dangerous provisions of Dodd-Frank—no checks on his removal, no congressional control over his budget, and no effective judicial review. These are exactly the sorts of circumstances that motivated the Founders' concerns about an unchecked appointment power in the Executive. They are the very reasons the Presidential nominees must obtain the Senate's consent before taking office.

The only exception to this body's power to decline its consent to a nomination is the President's power ''to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.'' But the President's power to make recess appointments is wholly contingent on what the Constitution terms ''the Recess of the Senate'' actually occurring, and the power to decide when that happens rests squarely with the legislative branch.

This is the obvious consequence of the Senate's constitutional power—conferred in article I, section 5—to determine the rules of its proceedings. And it is well supported by longstanding practice and precedent, acknowledged by the executive branch going as far back as 1790. Consider what would happen if the President could unilaterally determine when the recess of the Senate occurs. With no check on the President's discretion to declare the Senate in recess, he could employ the recess appointment power whenever the Senate refused to give immediate and unencumbered consent to his or her nominees. The advice-and-consent process would become a dead letter. The exception would swallow the rule, and the Senate would be deprived of a central tool our Nation's Founders specifically conferred to prevent Executive mischief.

The Founders realized the severity of this threat. They had fought royal abuses of the appointment power, asserting in the Declaration of Independence how the King's government had ''erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.'' As Hamilton explained in Federalist 69, ''They deliberately chose not to give the President the King's often-abused power to discontinue a session of the legislature.''

So concerned were the Framers with the legislature's power to control its own sittings that the Constitution gave each House the power to prevent the other from adjourning for more than 3 days. In essence, the Senate and the House of Representatives both have the power to prevent the recess of the Senate and thereby avoid the activation of the President's recess appointment power.

So when the Senate was confronted by the prospect of an out-of-control National Labor Relations Board and an unchecked Consumer Financial Protection Bureau led by President Obama's appointees, we were facing threats that our Founders had themselves faced and for which they had specifically provided us with the tools to resist. When we refused to act as quickly as the administration wanted and merely rubberstamp these nominees, we acted exactly as the Constitution's Framers had intended. And the House of Representatives wisely refused to consent to a recess of the annual session of the Senate, thereby refusing to grant the President authority to make lawful recess appointments.

I don't relish rejecting nominees—quite the contrary. Over the past 38 years, I have voted for the vast majority of nominees from each of the six Presidents under whom I have served and with whom I have served alongside, including President Obama. But scrutinizing the President's nominees and occasionally withholding consent when circumstances warrant represents Congress fulfilling, not abdicating, its constitutional responsibilities.

So when faced with our legitimate and lawful use of the powers endowed in the legislative branch by the Constitution, what did the Obama administration do? Did it seek to accommodate our concerns about the unconstitutional structure and unprecedented powers of the CFPB? Did the President seek to help develop a compromise package of the NLRB nominees, as Ted Kennedy and I always did? Sadly, no. Instead, President Obama simply proclaimed that he ''wouldn't take no for an answer'' despite what the Constitution may say. He chose instead to use—or rather abuse—the recess appointment power to install these four nominees, including two who had been nominated only 2 weeks before—hardly long enough for the Senate to vet them thoroughly. But, of course, we were not in ''the Recess of the Senate'' that the Constitution requires to activate the recess appointment power. Even the Solicitor General admitted that a 3-day adjournment was too short to allow the President to bypass the Senate lawfully.

Instead, President Obama audaciously claimed the power to decide for himself when the Senate was in recess and determined that in his personal opinion, our so-called pro forma sessions during this period did not really count as sessions of the Senate, at least for the purposes of the Constitution's requirements.

But during these sessions the Senate was fully capable of engaging in its business. Indeed, during a similar session the previous fall, the Senate twice passed legislation that President Obama himself signed. We have also used these sessions to appoint conferees, to read calendar bills, and to engage in other such activity characteristic of the Senate operating in session. While the Senate planned to conduct no subsequent business under a unanimous consent agreement, even the Obama administration admitted

that there was a possibility that we might decide otherwise. Whether the Senate chooses to conduct business has no relevance here. Instead, it is the ability of the Senate to conduct business if it so chooses that matters.

Faced with this reality, the Obama administration even argued that the Senate, by refusing to adjourn for more than 3 days, could not deny the President his recess appointment power—as if he was owed the opportunity to use this power.

This argument turns basic structure of Presidential appointments on its head, as if our advice-and-consent role were merely an inconvenience to be avoided rather than the organizing principle of how the entire constitutional process is designed to work. The Constitution does not create in the President an endlessly flexible power to bypass Congress when he disagrees with us. In fact, it does exactly the opposite: It vests in Congress both the power and the responsibility to resist a President's ill-advised policies and Executive overreach.

The actions and arguments advanced by the Obama administration represent a direct assault on the Constitution's division of powers between the different branches. This brazen power grab takes President Obama's already audacious overreach to a new level.

I applaud the Supreme Court's willingness to fulfill its constitutional obligations and check this abuse of power by the White House. While I agree most with the reasoning of Justice Scalia's concurrence, which respects the fixed and discernible meaning of the Constitution's text and its controlling power, the unanimous nature of this decision reflects just how egregious the President's action was.

But those of us who care about checking the Obama administration's overreach cannot place our faith in the courts alone, although they must play an important role. Too often this administration has been crafty in implementing its breaches of the law to avoid judicial review, frequently structuring its overreach to prevent any plaintiff from having any legal standing to sue in court. This White House has even used its role in the legislative process to advance provisions that eliminate the potential for judicial review, as it did in Dodd-Frank. And when the courts have found legitimate occasion to scrutinize President Obama's overreach, the administration has often fought to keep litigants out of court, as in the Fast and Furious litigation.

Perhaps most disturbing is what happened with the DC Circuit, the second most important court in the land that oversees our massive regulatory state, the court that originally held the President's appointments unconstitutional. When the DC Circuit tried to hold the Obama administration accountable to the law and the Constitution, President Obama and his allies sought—in their own words—to ''switch the majority'' on the court and to ''fill up the D.C. Circuit one way or another.''

In the rush to eliminate any possible judicial obstacle to accountability by packing the DC Circuit, the Obama administration ran roughshod over the rules and traditions of this body by blowing up the filibuster. Whether through unilaterally changing the Senate rules or abusing the recess appointment power, the President and his allies have demonstrated a willingness to work untold and permanent damage to the institutions of this great body and to our constitutional system itself.

With such a powerful and aggressive President, no single institution can restore the constitutional checks on President Obama's often lawless exercise of power. Restoring constitutional government will require great effort by all of us: The courts, the Congress, and most importantly the voting public. That is why it is essential for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand and defend the institutional prerogatives of the Senate. That is every Senator's sworn duty under the Constitution.

Many of my colleagues—even those with whom I rarely agree—have the potential to be great Senators, worthy stewards of this institution, zealous guardians of its prerogatives and true defenders of its role in our constitutional system of government.

Sadly, whether blinded by partisan loyalty to the President or too inexperienced to understand the Senate from any other perspective than having a like-minded Senate majority and President, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have allowed—even facilitated—this administration's attempts to break down the constitutional checks on Executive power. Bob Byrd must be rolling over in his grave. He would never allow the Senate's power to be as diluted and dissipated as it has been during this Presidency. He would have stood up to them. He would have taken the Senate's prerogatives and made them very clear to this President and anybody else who tried to invade the Senate's prerogatives—and I might add constitutional prerogatives at that.

We must all realize what is at stake. This is not some petty turf war. As Madison warned in Federalist 47, ''The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.''

To disregard this central principle of constitutional government is to abolish the barriers protecting us from arbitrary government action and to undermine the rule of law.

We in the Congress should make no apology for protecting the legal prerogatives of the body in which we serve, for as Madison counseled in Federalist 51: ''[t]he great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists of giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others.''

If this body—and constitutional government generally—are to maintain a meaningful role in preserving liberty, we must all realize the importance of connecting the President's unlawful and illegitimate attempts to assert power. We must use the rightful and legitimate constitutional authorities that the Founders gave us to stand and fight back.

This is important. This is not just a battle between the two sides. This is not just an itty-bitty, little problem. This is one that has thwarted the intentions of the Founders to have three separated powers, each with its own duties and responsibilities, not infringed by the other powers that disregard the duties and responsibilities of the legislative branch.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING MEREDITH MELLODY

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is always rewarding to see people go on to bigger and better pursuits in their careers, unless, of course, we depend on them. And for almost my entire time as majority leader here in this body, one of the people I have depended on is Meredith Mellody. Isn't that a great name, Meredith Mellody. She has been an important part of the Democratic floor staff for that entire time.

For 8 years she has been here in the Senate, working late hours on the floor, sending me, among other things, the wrapup—she did that for a while—what happened during the day. It is tedious, but it is important, and we did it every day. She has been in the cloakroom making sure the wheels of this body continue turning. She comes from a political family. She comes, as I recall, from Scranton.

Anyway, I am grateful for her hard work and her dedication over the years. We all depend on her and have depended on her, and we are very thankful for her service.

She is leaving the Senate to pursue opportunities in the private sector, and that is important. But the main reason she is leaving—that I don't question, anyway, recognizing this is very important to her, and it is probably one of the most important things she has ever done—if not the most important—she is going to get married. I have already congratulated her.

But it is really sad to see these people who have become a part of our family go. She is going to be successful in

her future endeavors in the private sector.

I certainly wish you, Meredith, the best in the future. You are a wonderful person. You are kind, thoughtful, and considerate always. You are never rude to anyone. And the pressure that is on each of you to do this yesterday, do it right now, and do it sooner than you are capable of doing it—you have always been polite and never rude to anyone.

So I am grateful to you for your service to the Senate and, in doing that, your service to the country.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, one year ago tomorrow, the Senate came together to pass historic legislation to reform our broken immigration system. We did so with a strong bipartisan vote and after weeks of exhaustive work. The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act would unite families, spur the economy, and help protect our borders. Above all else, this historic legislation would create an immigration system that is worthy of our American values.

Today, our system does not reflect the values we hold as a nation. It is devastating that after 1 year, the House has yet to pass desperately needed immigration reform. The cost of inaction is all around us, from the millions of workers who are forced to live in the shadows without fully contributing to our economy, to the foreign-born students who are taking their skills overseas when they graduate instead of investing their talents here, to the uncertainty that continues to plague our agricultural and dairy industries because of unstable work visa programs. Families are being torn apart by deportations, and visa applicants around the world find themselves stuck in limbo because of our lengthy visa backlogs. However, nowhere is the cost of inaction more evident than in the faces of the young children sleeping on cold floors in detention centers on our border.

The humanitarian crisis at the border is growing, and we have a moral duty to address it. I was glad this body came together last year to support my bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which included important new provisions to improve the treatment of unaccompanied children at our border. This vital legislation, signed into law as part of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 provides additional advocates and support for the unaccompanied youngsters who come to our border often fleeing violence and abuse in their country of origin. I was proud when the Republican-controlled House voted overwhelmingly to support these important protections for unaccompanied minors. But they address just one piece of a rapidly growing problem. To truly address the crisis we are seeing today, the Republican House must act to pass bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform.

Those Republican critics who claim we must first secure our border before the House will vote on immigration reform should actually read the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act that the Senate passed last year. The bill would double the number of Border Patrol agents and authorize the completion of a 700-mile wall at the southern border. This language was a Republican demand during Senate consideration of the legislation. While I did not agree with it, I voted to authorize this so-called border surge because I supported the broader reform that would do so much for the families and DREAMers who contribute to the fabric of this Nation. Border security measures take up an entire title of the legislation, allocating billions of dollars to border security in addition to the considerable expenditures already authorized by existing law. Those measures are reinforced by ''triggers'' that must be satisfied before undocumented individuals may apply for permanent residence under the bill. These issues were hard-fought in the Senate, and the result was legislation that dramatically reshaped the landscape for border enforcement. So I say again, those who claim we must secure our border before passing immigration reform should look at the bill this Senate passed with broad bipartisan support a year ago.

Americans have seen too much inaction in Washington. The issue before us is too important to simply put off for another time. Just as House Republican leaders set aside partisanship to do what is right by passing the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act, they should again recognize that a majority of the Chamber supports passing comprehensive immigration reform. Immigration reform should not be held back due to partisan caucus rules that say only legislation supported by the majority of Republicans can be considered. All Members, Democrats and Republicans, should have the courage to vote. House Republican leaders cast aside partisanship and showed their courage last year by bringing the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act to the floor. They should do so again today.

Legislating is about making tough choices. It is not about standing on the sidelines and complaining that this solution is not perfect. It is about supporting efforts that move this country forward. The bipartisan legislation we passed had the support of businesses, community and faith leaders. It received support from groups ranging from the chamber of commerce and Americans for Tax Reform to law enforcement, university presidents, civil rights groups, and community advocates. Voices from across the Nation and the political spectrum came together in support of enacting long-overdue reforms.

I have been privileged to serve in this great body for nearly four decades because of the trust of the people of Vermont. In my time here, I have rarely seen such commitment to an issue as I did last year to comprehensive immigration reform. What was initially a proposal from the so-called Gang of 8 went through an extensive committee and floor process to allow every Senator to offer their input. The result was an historic bill supported by 68 Senators from both sides of the aisle. I congratulate those Senators for their hard work to pass this historic legislation. They share my belief that the status quo is not an option. President Obama, who has called the crisis at the border an ''urgent humanitarian situation,'' knows that maintaining the system we have in place today is not an option. We need a long-term plan to address the many problems in our immigration system and to ensure that in the future we have the tools to address crises like the one we are seeing now. That solution lies in passing the Senate immigration bill.

There is still time this year to accomplish meaningful and historic reform. I urge Republican leaders in the House not to waste another day and to bring up the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

ECUADORAN AMAZON OIL DRILLING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I wish to call attention to a recent decision by the Ecuadoran Government to issue a permit for oil drilling in the Yasuni reserve in the Amazon region. This should raise alarm bells in the international community for a number of reasons.

It was not long ago that President Correa was supporting a lawsuit against Chevron, citing contamination that resulted from oil exploration by Texaco, the previous owner of the

wells, in the Amazon region of Ecuador. That case, while fraught with allegations of corruption and ethical violations, shone a spotlight on the undeniable environmental damage, water contamination, and health problems associated with those oil wells, as well as on the rich biodiversity and indigenous populations in that region.

But the Correa administration has now backstepped, deciding to allow the state-run oil company Petroamazonas to begin exploratory drilling. Given the history, one can only be concerned about the threat this poses to one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world and the people who live there.

I am also disappointed by the circumstances leading up to the decision to begin oil production. Having failed in its far-fetched attempt to elicit contributions from the international community in exchange for halting plans to drill in the reserve, the Correa administration is moving ahead with this ill-conceived project. In other words, if someone else won't pay to prevent the Ecuadoran Government from potentially despoiling their own forests, they will drill there themselves despite the grave problems that occurred in the past.

Nobody questions Ecuador's need for energy. Nobody doubts Ecuador's right to drill for oil. But we all have a responsibility to protect areas especially rich in biodiversity for future generations. We also have a responsibility to respect vulnerable indigenous cultures. While no country, including the United States, can claim perfection in environmental stewardship, we need to collectively learn from our mistakes and avoid repeating them.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to mark the 5-year anniversary of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation was a landmark in the decades-long fight against the No. 1 cause of preventable death in the United States—tobacco use.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act passed in 2009—15 years after Dr. Kessler, the FDA Commissioner, began trying to regulate tobacco and 45 years after the Surgeon General's landmark report on tobacco use and lung cancer. For the first time in history, this law gave the FDA the authority to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products.

One express aim of the law was to reduce rates of tobacco use among children. The law achieved this by restricting sales to minors, banning flavored cigarettes, banning tobacco-brand sponsorships of sport and entertainment events, banning free samples, restricting advertisements to children, and more.

The results speak for themselves. Just this month, the CDC reported that cigarette smoking among U.S. high school students has dropped to the lowest level in 22 years. According to the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the percentage of students who reported smoking a cigarette in the last 30 days fell from 27.5 percent in 1991 to 15.7 percent in 2013. In Illinois, the percentage of students who are current smokers dropped by more than half between 1993 and 2013.

The FDA's implementation of this law is incomplete, and it needs to act now to reverse worrying trends. The CDC reports that e-cigarette use among middle and high school students more than doubled in 1 year, from 2011 to 2012. The same study found that one in five middle school students who reported using e-cigarettes had never tried conventional cigarettes. E-cigarettes could be a gateway to nicotine addiction and smoking. A new study released in the JAMA Pediatrics goes even further. This study found that middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes were more likely to smoke traditional cigarettes and less likely to quit smoking. If current smoking trends continue, 5.6 million American kids will die prematurely from a smoking-related illness.

I commend FDA for its most recent efforts to bring e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other forms of tobacco under its authority. However, FDA's proposed regulations remain dangerously silent on one of the most pressing questions of all—the marketing of these addictive products to children.

In April, ten of my congressional colleagues and I released a report documenting how leading e-cigarette manufacturers are marketing e-cigarettes to young people. The industry is deploying the same advertising techniques it used to hook previous generations of cigarette smokers. Many of these companies hired glamorous celebrities to push their brands through TV and radio ads, and sponsored events with heavy social media promotion. For example, NJOY advertised its products during the Super Bowl, the Academy Awards, and on ESPN—all programs with substantial children and teen viewership. In just 2 years, from 2012 to 2013, 6 of the surveyed companies sponsored or provided free samples at 348 events—many geared toward youth audiences.

These e-cigarette companies have even revived cartoon characters in a way that calls to mind Joe Camel—the deadliest cartoon of the 20th century. While many of these companies argue that they do not market to children, a robust analysis recently published in the journal Pediatrics suggests otherwise. Between 2011 and 2013, exposure to e-cigarette marketing by children aged 12 to 17 rose 256 percent. Mr. President, 24 million children saw these ads. Not only is the marketing and packaging intended to appeal to young people, so is the product itself. Let me read a list of e-cigarette flavors being marketed today—vivid vanilla, gummy bears, chocolate treat, and cherry crush. In the face of this mounting evidence, rather than accelerating its efforts, the FDA bowed to industry pressure last week and extended the comment period on its proposed regulations. Every day, 3,200 kids smoke their first cigarette. Every day that the FDA fails to take action costs lives.

As we move to protect kids from new threats like e-cigarettes, we also have to redouble our fight against tobacco use in the military. Nearly 30 years have passed since the first Department of Defense report on high rates of tobacco use among servicemembers and its devastating impact on readiness, productivity, and medical costs. While overall rates of use have declined significantly, smoking rates among servicemembers are nearly 20 percent higher than civilian rates. The use of smokeless tobacco is more than 450 percent higher for servicemembers than civilians. One in three military smokers began doing so after enlisting.

The Department of Defense spends more than $1.6 billion every year on tobacco-related medical care and lost days of work, and the VA spends an additional $5 billion a year to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, primarily caused by smoking.

In 1993, after reading about the dangers of secondhand smoke, CAPT Stanley W. Bryant, commander of the U.S.S. Roosevelt, declared that his ship would be smoke-free. He said, ''I'm the commanding officer of these kids and I can't have them inhaling secondhand smoke. I wouldn't put them in the line of fire. I'm not going to put them in the line of smoke.'' Captain Bryant is one of many leaders in our Armed Forces who have tried to protect the men and women under their command from the dangers of tobacco, but at every turn, their efforts have come under fire from the tobacco industry and its allies. Even Bryant's victory was short-lived. Within the year the tobacco industry forced in a new tobacco policy that stripped ships' captains of their authority over ships' stores and mandated that cigarettes be sold on ships.

One of the central problems is the widespread availability of cheap tobacco products on military installations and ships. The Department of Defense policy requires that exchanges set tobacco prices 5 percent below the lowest local competitor. In practice, these discounts are greater. A 19-year-old soldier walking into a PX can buy a pack of Marlboro cigarettes for 25 percent less, on average, than at the nearest Walmart, according to a recent study in JAMA. These discounts are deadly. Extensive research shows that raising tobacco prices is one of the most effective ways to reduce use. Efforts to end these discounts began in the late 1980s, but nearly every attempt has been blocked due to industry pressure.

This spring, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced that he is considering a ban on tobacco sales at all

bases and ships. As the Department of Defense has acknowledged, our ultimate goal should be a tobacco-free military. When I asked about this last week at a hearing, I was heartened to hear that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel was conducting a Department-wide review of tobacco sale policies. I urge Secretaries Hagel and Mabus to set concrete goals, policies, and timelines—starting with an end to these discounts that cost lives just as surely as do wars.

The Tobacco Control Act is one of this administration's greatest legacies. I urge the administration to continue its leadership by protecting children from e-cigarettes and our men and women in uniform from the harms of smoking.

CONGO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about what this Congress did to help one of the world's most forgotten yet most deadly conflicts—that in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Former Kansas Senator Sam Brownback invited me to eastern Congo almost 10 years ago and later I returned with Senator SHERROD BROWN in 2010.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a nation of breathtaking natural beauty, rich in a vast array of resources. It is also a badly broken country, weak in governance and dominated by relentless poverty, warlords, pillaging soldiers, and horrific, almost incomprehensible, violence. A barbaric civil war spanning more than a decade in Congo is the most lethal conflict since World War II.

Eastern Congo is known as the ''Rape Capital of the World.'' In fact, according to the United Nations, regional war and rape leaves an estimated 1,000 or more women assaulted every day in the Congo. That is 12 percent of all Congolese women.

I will try to describe the city of Goma in eastern Congo to those who haven't been there. It is almost impossible. Imagine one of the poorest places on Earth, where people are literally starving, where they are facing the scourge of disease, where malaria and AIDS cut short the lives of far too many. Imagine a nearby active volcano. Then superimpose over that the misfortune of ongoing war and unrest that has ravaged the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo for years and resulted in millions of deaths and unspeakable sexual violence. Armed militias, some left over from the genocide in Rwanda, continue to operate in the region, terrorizing civilians and inflicting horrific brutality.

The United Nations has a 20,000-member peacekeeping force in the area with an impressive new mandate to bring stability, but it can only do so much. The area is still very fragile, awash in weapons, warlords, and competing regional interests. It is also rich in valuable minerals that are found in our every-day electronics, jewelry, and other products.

It has been said that the Congo war contains ''wars within wars''—and that is true. But fueling much of the violence is a bloody contest for control of these vast mineral resources.

Most people probably don't realize that many of the products we use and wear every day, from automobiles to our cell phones and even our wedding rings, may use one of these minerals—and that there is a possibility it was mined using forced labor from an area of great violence.

We can not begin to solve the problems of eastern Congo without tackling a key source of funding for armed groups, which is the mining of conflict minerals, including tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold. We as a nation and as consumers, as well as industries that use these minerals, have a responsibility to ensure that our economic activity does not support such violence.

NGOs like the Enough Project have led the way in informing the American people about what goes into the jewelry, electronics, and manufacturing equipment they wear and use.

That is why I joined with Senators Brownback and Feingold and Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT to support legislation that would help stem the flow of proceeds from illegally mined minerals into those perpetuating unspeakable violence. That law passed almost 4 years ago. Its requirement is simple: If a company registered in the United States uses any of a small list of key minerals from the Congo (tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold)—minerals known to be involved in the conflict areas—then such usage must be reported in that company's SEC disclosure. Companies can also include information showing steps taken to ensure the minerals are legitimately mined and sourced and that by responsibly sourcing these minerals, they are not contributing to the region's violence.

It is not a ban on using the materials or a requirement to source responsibly. Instead it was a reasonable step—a reporting requirement—to shed some light on the issue and to encourage companies using these minerals to source them responsibly.

It took some time for the Securities and Exchange Commission to thoughtfully craft the rule for this law. And disappointingly, as is increasingly too often the case with the rulemaking process, some tried to gut the law in court.

But the law was upheld repeatedly in court, moved forward as enacted by Congress. The first filing reports were submitted to the SEC early this month. This is a milestone.

A look at these filings shows us that some companies have been working for several years already to use their collective financial incentives to foster clean and legitimate supply chains out of eastern Congo. And I want to commend a few of these companies for taking such an early and responsible lead on this issue, including Apple, Intel, and electronics components manufacturer Kemet, which has a branch of its business in my home State of Illinois.

For example, Intel has created its first conflict-free computer chip, while still using responsibly sourced minerals from Congo, and took its reporting a step further by voluntarily submitting it to third-party audits. Under the Conflict-Free Smelter program, the number of international smelters operating free from conflict minerals continues to grow, with almost 90 smelters—40 percent of the world's total smelters—being certified as conflict-free and over 150 companies and industry associations participating in the program. After being refined, the origins of the material become difficult to track, as these smelters purchase materials from a variety of sources. The smelter or refiner therefore represents a critical point in the supply chain where we can look for assurances about whether or not the material has been purchased from conflict-free sources. Apple has confirmed that its entire tantalum supply chain is conflict free.

Another leader in the electronics industry has been Motorola Solutions, headquartered in Schaumberg, IL. Motorola Solutions emerged early as a company dedicated to cleaning up its supply chain, and to do so, it helped establish Solutions for Hope, dedicated to developing a ''closed-pipe'' supply chain. In the Rubaya region of the North Kivu province in the DRC, it has done just that. Tantalum mines in Rubaya were directly funding the leader of the vicious M23 rebel group, Bosco Ntaganda. Through persistent effort, diligent monitoring and the banding together of other likeminded corporations, those 17 mines are now certified conflict-free, and most importantly, M23 has laid down its arms and Bosco Ntaganda stands before the International Criminal Court to face charges for the atrocities he and his comrades committed.

According to the Enough Project's recent report on the impact of this legislation, armed groups and the Congolese army are no longer present at two-thirds of tin, tantalum and tungsten mines surveyed in eastern Congo. And as you may have seen recently, Dutch smart phone manufacturer Fairphone is making its products with conflict-free raw materials. Fairphone has already sold 35,000 units and is hoping to expand production as more consumers embrace conflict-free electronics. Fairphone and others are leading by example, and proving that conflict-free is not only possible, but it can be profitable too.

This was the whole point of the legislation. And consumers will finally have an option to invest in and purchase from those companies that are making a good-faith effort to source from this war stricken area responsibly.

I thank my many colleagues here in the Congress on both sides of the aisle

who helped make this bill a reality and the many responsible companies that are taking steps to help ensure their sourcing of minerals does not contribute to the horrific violence in mineral-rich Congo. The Congolese people have suffered entirely too much, and I sincerely believe that these efforts will be part of the long-term solution to the quest for stability and peace in their country.

RECESS APPOINTMENT DECISION

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I wish to applaud the Supreme Court's unanimous decision that the President's January 4, 2012 appointments to the NLRB were unconstitutional. As you know, I was the Ranking Member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2012, and when these appointments were made I expressed my concern with the administration's contempt for small businesses and the Senate's confirmation and vetting process. I was also proud to cosign an amicus brief led by our Republican leader against these proforma session appointments.

The Appointments Clause of our Constitution provides that ''the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law.'' Today the Supreme Court validated the Senate's important advice and consent role in the confirmation process.

These unconstitutional appointments are just one example of the executive branch overreach that Americans face every day under this administration. In his State of the Union address, President Obama said that since he is unable to rely on Congress to rubber stamp his agenda, he intends to use executive orders to avoid the legislative process altogether. This is certainly not a new practice for him: President Obama has issued more executive orders and economically significant rules and regulations than President George W. Bush, Clinton or Reagan. I hope today's Supreme Court decision will serve as the impetus that brings my colleagues together to say enough is enough.

One issue we need to stand up to the administration about is its war on coal. Earlier this month the EPA issued new regulations that try to force a backdoor cap and tax proposal on Americans that Congress has rejected. Senators on both sides of the aisle realized a couple of years ago that coal is one of our best sources of energy and that cap and tax was an extremely expensive and bad idea. I urge those Senators to come together again and make the President withdraw his cap and tax regulation.

Another issue we need to stand up to the President about is his attempt to control all our water. In March the EPA proposed a new rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property. We have already experienced that attempt at control in Wyoming, where the EPA tried to fine an individual up to $75,000 per day for the pond he built on his private property. Mark Twain once said, ''in the West, whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting over.'' I urge my Western State colleagues to come together and make the President withdraw his waters of the United States regulation.

We do not have to wait for the Supreme Court to act on these examples of executive overreach. The Congressional Review Act provides an expedited procedure for us to consider a resolution of disapproval of the President's rules. Under the CRA, before any final rule can become effective it must be filed with each House of Congress and GAO. Within 60 days after Congress receives an agency's rule, we can introduce a resolution of disapproval to nullify the rule. The CRA also guarantees us a vote because 30 of us can sign a petition to discharge the resolution from Committee, and the motion to proceed to the resolution is not subject to amendment, motion to postpone, or motion to proceed to other business. I hope I have 29 colleagues willing to join me in signing petitions to discharge resolutions of disapproval regarding both of these rules.

There are also areas where the administration is not acting when it should, and I hope my colleagues will push the administration to spend its time taking actions that help, not hurt, America.

Officials from the IRS, Treasury Department, and White House did not tell Congress when they realized IRS emails had been lost that were relevant to bipartisan committee investigations. The administration knew about those emails for at least 2 months before the Senate Finance Committee was informed. I urge my colleagues to come together and insist on full disclosure from the administration regarding allegations of political targeting by the IRS. A Finance Committee hearing about the lost IRS emails would be an excellent step in getting to the bottom of this issue.

The administration has not approved the Keystone Pipeline application that has been pending for more than 5 years. The State Department has done five reviews of the project and determined that the pipeline would cause no significant environmental impacts. The pipeline would create about 42,000 jobs. Our Energy Committee has passed legislation to build the pipeline. A bipartisan group of at least 55 Senators say they want to build the pipeline. I urge that group to come together and insist the President let the pipeline go forward.

These are not the only areas where the President has acted when he should not have, and has not acted when he should have. But they are important to Wyoming and America, and I urge my colleagues to stand up to the executive branch now rather than waiting for the Supreme Court on another issue.

STOPPING SCHOOL TRAGEDIES

Mr. LEVIN Mr. President, every morning around our Nation, as young people walk into their schools, they are reminded of our Nation's epidemic of gun violence. The sights and sounds of an American school day—lockers closing, the morning bell—now compete with more disconcerting scenes: metal detectors, security cameras, and armed guards. Students interrupt math and science lessons to participate in active shooter drills. Parents everywhere ask the same, legitimate question: Are my kids safe in their school?

They are right to be concerned. On June 10, a 15-year-old boy in Oregon brought a military-style assault rifle, nine magazines of ammunition, a handgun, and a knife to his high school. There, he murdered a classmate and exchanged gunfire with police before taking his own life. Several reports have counted this as the 74th instance of a shot being fired inside or near an American school since the tragic events of December 14, 2012, when a mentally deranged individual stole the lives of 27 people, 20 of them children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The only number of such instances that America should accept is zero.

It does not have to continue this way. The Newtown shooting, along with so many other horrific instances, created overwhelming consensus among Americans that Congress needs to act to stop this senseless gun violence. Polls now routinely show that more than 90 percent of the American public supports the passage of legislation to require simple background checks to be conducted on all gun sales. Recent reports have shown that 95 percent of internal medicine physicians in our Nation agree. And 76 percent of these physicians believe that gun safety legislation would ''help to reduce the risk for gun-related injuries or death.'' Organizations outside of government have engaged in important work to reduce gun violence in our society, including a recent initiative spearheaded by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence that encourages parents to keep their kids safe by asking a simple question: ''Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?''

But as long as Congress continues to ignore the American people, the fundamental problems remain. Today, in places all around our Nation, a convicted felon, a domestic abuser, a dangerously mentally ill individual, or a confused and angry teenager can still buy a firearm from an unlicensed dealer without undergoing any sort of background check. And at almost any time, a mentally ill young person can

take their parent's military-style assault weapons, designed for no purpose other than murder, and commit an unspeakable atrocity, as happened that sad day in Newtown.

Our country is not a war zone. Our Founding Fathers did not set forth to create a nation where parents walk through school hallways wondering if the doors and windows are thick enough. Or where communities turn on their televisions to tragic news, day after day, and have the same thought: ''That could be us next time.''

It is long past time for Congress to live up to our responsibility to protect the American people. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass urgently needed, commonsense legislation to reduce gun violence in our society. The American people deserve nothing less.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on June 7, 1776, Virginian Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in the Second Continental Congress to declare the 13 American colonies' independence from Great Britain. Four days later, Congress established a committee—the Committee of Five—to draft a statement proclaiming and justifying American independence. The Committee consisted of John Adams (Massachusetts), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Thomas Jefferson (Virginia), Robert Livingston (New York), and Roger Sherman (Connecticut) and assigned the duty of writing the first draft to Thomas Jefferson. The Committee left no minutes so we aren't sure how many iterations of the document were drafted before the Committee presented the final version to Congress on June 28, 1776—an action immortalized by the artist John Trumbull in a painting that hangs in the Capitol Rotunda.

On Monday, July 1, 1776, the Committee of the Whole debated the Lee Resolution. Jefferson wrote that they were ''exhausted by a debate of nine hours, during which all the powers of the soul had been distended with the magnitude of the object.'' The Committee of the Whole voted 9–2 to adopt the Lee Resolution. The following day—July 2, 1776—Congress heard the report of the Committee of the Whole and declared the sovereign status of the American colonies. The Declaration of Independence was given its second reading before Congress adjourned for the day. On July 3, 1776, the Declaration received its third reading and final edits. The text's formal adoption was deferred until the following morning—July 4, 1776. That evening, the Committee of Five reconvened to prepare the final ''fair copy'' of the document, which was delivered to the 29-year-old Irish immigrant printer John Dunlap, with orders from John Hancock to print ''broadside'' copies. Dunlap worked into the night setting the type and running off 200 or so broadside sheets—now known as the Dunlap broadsides—which became the first published copies of the Declaration of Independence. Twenty-six of the original Dunlap broadsides—or fragments of them—are extant. Here in Washington, the Library of Congress has two and the National Archives has one. In January 1777, Congress commissioned publisher Mary Katherine Goddard to produce a new broadside of the Declaration of Independence that listed the individuals who signed it.

And so, here we are 238 years later, preparing once again to celebrate the birth of our Nation and the document that proclaimed it. We will have appropriate celebrations from the National Mall to small towns across America. We will gather with families and friends in communities large and small to relax and refresh ourselves. And we will reflect on the blessings of liberty that have been bequeathed to us. We must never take those blessings for granted. Americans have fought and died to defend them and people around the world have fought and died to obtain them.

We cannot calculate what we owe to Thomas Jefferson and the Committee of Five. But, as Abraham Lincoln summoned all Americans in 1863 at Gettysburg, we can dedicate ourselves to the ''great task remaining before us . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'' The stakes are high, for as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt remarked in his fireside chat on May 26, 1940, ''We defend and build a way of life, not for America alone, but for all mankind.'' That is our unique and solemn responsibility as Americans, and our cherished privilege.

I wish all of my colleagues, my fellow Marylanders, and all Americans a happy and safe Fourth of July.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to talk for a few minutes about how Senators can work together to make this a more perfect Union and guarantee equal justice under the law to all Americans.

Freedom Summer was a campaign in Mississippi to register Black voters during the summer of 1964. In 1964, most Black voters were disenfranchised by law or practice in Mississippi, notwithstanding the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in 1870. The 15th Amendment provides that ''the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by . . . any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.''

On January 23, 1964, the States ratified the 24th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides that ''the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other [Federal] election . . . shall not be denied or abridged . . . by any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.''

The Freedom Summer voting rights initiative was led by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, with the support of the Council of Federated Organizations, COFO, which included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality, referred to in this preamble as the CORE, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC.

Thousands of students and activists participated in 2-week orientation sessions in preparation for the voter registration drive in Mississippi. In 1962, at 6.7 percent of the State's Black population, Mississippi had one of the lowest percentages of Black registered voters in the country.

Tragically, three civil rights volunteers lost their lives in their attempts to secure voting rights for Blacks. Andrew Goodman was a White 20-year-old anthropology major from Queens College who volunteered for the Freedom Summer project. James Chaney was a 21-year-old Black man from Meridian, MS, who became a civil rights activist, joining the CORE in 1963 to work on voter registration and education. Michael ''Mickey'' Schwerner was a 24-year-old White man from Brooklyn, NY, who was a CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement.

On the morning of June 21, 1964, the three men left the CORE office in Meridian, MS, and set out for Longdale, MS, where they were to investigate the recent burning of the Mount Zion Methodist Church, a Black church that had been functioning as a freedom school to promote education and voter registration. The three civil rights workers were beaten, shot, and killed by members of the Ku Klux Klan, after being turned over by local police.

The national uproar in response to these brave men's deaths, which occurred shortly before enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, helped build the momentum and national consensus necessary to bring about passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

So as we celebrate the anniversaries of these landmarks pieces of civil rights legislation, we are reminded that there is more work to be done. As former Senator Ted Kennedy used to say, ''Civil rights is the great unfinished business of America.''

One year ago this week the Supreme Court issued its decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which struck down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, invalidating the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subject to the preclearance provisions of the act.

Congress must act to reverse the erroneous decision by the Supreme Court which overturned several important

precedents in a fit of judicial activism. As much as we wish it wasn't so, racism has not disappeared from America and there continue to be individuals and groups who would use our voting system to deliberately minimize the rights of minority voters. Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 after building an extensive record that made a compelling case for the continued need to protect minority voters from discrimination. I strongly agree with Justice Ginsburg's dissent that 'in truth, the evolution of voting discrimination into more subtle second-generation barriers is powerful evidence that a remedy as effective as preclearance remains vital to protect minority voting rights and prevent backsliding.'" I am deeply disappointed that the Court put voting rights in jeopardy by ignoring reality and disregarding the power of Congress to enforce the 15th Amendment of the Constitution by appropriate legislation.

I am pleased that the Judiciary Committee held a hearing this week on potential legislative responses to the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby County v. Holder, and I hope Congress can take up and pass a legislative fix before the midterm elections.

Congress should also take up and pass the Democracy Restoration Act, DRA, S. 2235, which I have introduced. The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in Federal elections to approximately 5.8 million citizens who have been released from prison and are back living in their communities.

After the Civil War, Congress enacted and the States ratified the 15th Amendment, which provides that ''the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.''

Unfortunately, many States passed laws during the Jim Crow period after the Civil War to make it more difficult for newly freed slaves to vote in elections. Such laws included poll taxes, literacy tests, and disenfranchisement measures.

Some disenfranchisement measures applied to misdemeanor convictions and in practice could result in lifetime disenfranchisement, even for individuals that successfully reintegrated into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

Shortly thereafter Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which swept away numerous State laws and procedures that had denied African Americans and other minorities their constitutional right to vote. For example, the act outlawed the use of literacy or history tests that voters had to pass before registering to vote or casting their ballot.

The act specifically prohibits States from imposing any ''voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure . . . . . to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.'' Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the act in 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Congress is now working on legislation to revitalize the VRA after recent Supreme Court decisions curtailed its reach.

In 2014, I am concerned that there are still several areas where the legacy of Jim Crow laws and State disenfranchisement statutes lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, State laws governing the restoration of voting rights vary widely throughout the country, such that persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights, while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Second, these State disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. Third, this patchwork of State laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections, and leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on residence. Finally, studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to reoffend, and disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.

In 35 States, convicted individuals may not vote while they are on parole. In 11 States, a conviction can result in lifetime disenfranchisement. Several States require prisoners to seek discretionary pardons from Governors, or action by the parole or pardon board, in order to regain their right to vote. Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors. States are slowly moving to repeal or loosen many of these barriers to voting for ex-prisoners.

An estimated 5,850,000 citizens of the United States, or about 1 in 40 adults in the United States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison. By contrast, 75 percent of the disenfranchised reside in their communities while on probation or parole after having completed their sentences. Approximately 2,600,000 citizens who have completed their sentences remain disenfranchised due to restrictive State laws. In six states—Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia—more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised.

Studies show that a growing number of African-American men, for example, will be disenfranchised at some point in their life, partly due to mandatory minimum sentencing laws that have a disproportionate impact on minorities. Latino citizens are disproportionately disenfranchised as well.

Congress has addressed part of this problem by enacting the Fair Sentencing Act to partially reduce the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine convictions. Congress is now considering legislation that would more broadly revise mandatory sentencing procedures and create a fairer system of sentencing. While I welcome these steps, I believe that Congress should take stronger action now to remedy this particular problem.

The legislation would restore voting rights to prisoners after their release from incarceration. It requires that prisons receiving Federal funds notify people about their right to vote in Federal elections when they are leaving prison, sentenced to probation, or convicted of a misdemeanor.

The legislation is narrowly crafted to apply to Federal elections, and retains the States' authorities to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation is consistent with congressional authority under the Constitution and voting rights statutes.

I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by a large coalition of public interest organizations, including civil rights and reform organizations; religious and faith-based organizations; and law enforcement and criminal justice organizations.

In particular I want to thank the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP for their work on this legislation.

This legislation is designed to reduce recidivism rates and help reintegrate ex-prisoners back into society. When prisoners are released, they are expected to obey the law, get a job, and pay taxes as they are rehabilitated and reintegrated into their community. With these responsibilities and obligations of citizenship should also come the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, after overwhelming approval and strong bipartisan support in Congress. The legislation expanded the Prison Re-Entry Initiative, by providing job training, placement services, transitional housing, drug treatment, medical care, and faith-based mentoring.

At the signing ceremony, President Bush said: ''We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who have paid for their crimes. We help them build new lives as productive members of our society.''

The Democracy Restoration Act is fully consistent with the goals of the Second Chance Act, as Congress and the States seek to reduce recidivism rates, strengthen the quality of life in our communities and make them safer, and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

More recently, in a February 2014 speech, Attorney General Eric Holder called on elected officials to reexamine disenfranchisement statutes and enact reforms to restore voting rights.

I urge Congress to continue the fight to protect and expand civil rights in

this country, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as we strive to make this a more perfect union.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to speak on behalf of our service men and women suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Tomorrow—June 27—is National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day, so designated by the U.S. Senate in a unanimous action 2 years ago. I am calling on all of my colleagues in this body to redouble our efforts to help veterans and servicemembers who are struggling with PTSD each and every day. I remain committed to provide all necessary assistance to people who have this problem as the result of their faithful military service because it is one of the solemn obligations we have as a nation. For this reason I supported Senator HEITKAMP's bi-partisan resolution designating June as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder—PTSD—Awareness Month.

With the military drawdown currently underway, I am concerned that our Nation will not adequately address the PTSD-related issues that many of our veterans and servicemembers face. I find it deeply troubling that, on average, 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Furthermore, veterans who have post-traumatic stress are at greater risk for drug abuse and alcoholism. The abuse of these substances often amounts to a form of a self-medication because the servicemember or veteran is unable or unwilling to seek help.

I strongly believe that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day is an important step in highlighting these issues. Our challenge is to help every veteran suffering from these invisible wounds seek help and cope with their very real injury. There is a perceived stigma that makes veterans reluctant to seek help and feeds negative perceptions which can cause employers not to hire veterans. Educating veterans and the public about this affliction and the support networks available will bring to light a very real and deadly epidemic among servicemembers. Too often we say ''thank you'' to servicemembers and veterans without really knowing what we are thanking them for, because we don't bother to understand their struggles. Addressing this disconnect would make a world of difference in helping this population mitigate the effects of post-traumatic stress.

The work being done today to address this issue proves that post-traumatic stress does not have to be a permanently disabling condition. Within my own State of Maryland, organizations such as Fort Detrick's Army Medical Research & Materiel Command are making amazing advances in developing post-traumatic stress treatments that were unimaginable just a few years ago. As for present treatments, the Warrior Canine Connection is an excellent example of an organization that is helping veterans here and now. This organization, located in Brookeville, provides therapeutic working dogs to veterans and servicemembers, and it also conducts research that strives to further improve upon the positive effects that these service animals have on the veterans and servicemembers. The Warrior Canine Connection has helped countless veterans relieve the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, enabling them to regain their status as healthy and productive members of our society.

I am not at all surprised that these servicemembers and veterans have bounced back wonderfully after being treated for their post-traumatic stress. If a soldier, sailor, airmen or Marine is able to excel on the battlefield, then I see no reason why that same person should not be able to excel in the classroom, in a hospital, or in the boardroom. I refuse to believe that our veterans and servicemembers are ''damaged goods'' because of their military service.

One only needs to look at our history to see that our society benefits greatly when we provide our veterans and servicemembers with the assistance they need to transition successfully to civilian life. During World War II, American servicemembers encountered some of the most difficult combat conditions in human history. Yet when World War II veterans returned home, did they become a burden to their nation because of those combat experiences? Not at all. Returning World War II veterans spearheaded the work that made our country more prosperous than it had ever been. Veterans can be the engine to a great economy that sustains a flourishing middle class. I believe World War II veterans were able to succeed in the civilian workforce because after the war, they returned to a society that understood and genuinely respected their military service.

This week I had the privilege of visiting the Veterans Health Care System in Baltimore, MD. America cannot break our promise to those who have sacrificed so much to protect our great Nation. We have seen bipartisan progress toward correcting the systemic problems facing our veterans' health care system, and I am encouraged by the additional staff and resources being deployed in Baltimore. Most Maryland veterans are receiving quality health care at world-class facilities close to home. But the wounds inflicted by this national breach of trust will take more time to heal as we renew and fulfill our commitment to care for the health and well-being of our veterans.

I am continually in awe of the extraordinary men and women serving at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center who make it their daily mission to provide the highest level of support to our wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers and their families. A testament to their commitment is the Department of Defense Deployment Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD, which has developed an intensive, 3-week, multi-disciplinary treatment program called The Specialized Care Program. This program is designed for servicemembers experiencing PTSD or experiencing difficulties readjusting to life upon redeployment after serving in Operations IRAQ or ENDURING FREEDOM. This program is for patients who have had other treatments for PTSD, or perhaps depression, but who continue to experience symptoms that interfere with their ability to function.

In light of the upcoming July 4 holiday, providing assistance to veterans who have served our Nation so diligently must be a priority. As we celebrate our Independence Day, we must also address the needs of those who have defended our liberty and have allowed it to thrive. Without the men and women who fought for the United States' freedom in 1776 and those who bravely do so today, our country simply would not exist. With this in mind, we as Americans ought to support our veterans to the best of our abilities and present them with the necessary assistance and resources they may require. Whether we succeed in this endeavor will be a significant measure of our Nation's fidelity towards our veterans and its moral character. I am committed to making sure this population receives treatment for post-traumatic stress, should they need it. The United States is the strongest nation in the world because of our veterans and servicemembers. We owe it to bring them back home not just in body, but in mind and spirit, as well.

RWANDA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, rising from the ashes of the 1994 genocide, the Rwandan people can be proud of the progress their country has made over the past two decades. Through reconciliation and resilience, Rwanda has entered a new phase of economic growth and is working to protect civilians in other countries through its vital contributions to global peacekeeping missions. The world has cheered these successes, but today we have cause for concern.

To cement its legacy as a world leader and model for development, there is in Rwanda today a clear need to ensure space for a thriving civil society—a hallmark of any democracy. I am deeply troubled by reports of shrinking space for dissenting voices. Rwanda's domestic human rights movement has been profoundly constrained by a combination of intimidation and stigmatization, threats, harassment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, infiltration, and administrative obstacles. The government's actions to censor domestic and international human rights

groups appear to be part of a broader pattern of intolerance of criticism.

In 2013, the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, and Freedom House all expressed concern over the interference of the Rwandan Government in determining the leadership of the Rwandan League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, one of the last remaining independent advocacy organizations in the country. This has effectively curtailed domestic civil society initiatives to monitor human rights abuses.

In June of this year, the U.S. State Department cited its deep concern over the arrest and disappearance of dozens of Rwandan citizens over a period of 2 months, citing incommunicado detention and a lack of due process, as well as the threatening of journalists.

Also in June, Human Rights Watch, HRW, an organization that has worked on Rwanda for more than 20 years and documented the 1994 genocide, was accused by the Ministry of Justice of political bias and collaboration with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, FDLR, some of whose members participated in the genocide and committed horrific human rights abuses in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC. These accusations come in the wake of a May HRW critique of the Rwandan Government's actions, including forced disappearances, and discount HRW's constant critique of the FDLR's egregious human rights record in the DRC. HRW, the last independent international organization based in Kigali speaking out against human rights abuses, appears at increasing risk of not being able to do its job, and perhaps even of being shut down.

Rwanda's past should not be used as an excuse to suppress free speech and independent reporting in Rwanda today. Dissent is an important tool for citizens in holding their elected leaders accountable. Peaceful, law-abiding individuals and organizations should not be labeled as conspirators or enemies of state because they question the government. Freedom of expression and due process are rights that should extend to all Rwandans and its visitors—including journalists, human rights advocates, opposition members, and everyday citizens alike.

Rwanda has made great strides, but there is still work to do. As Rwanda faces its newest challenges, the United States stands with its people and remains committed to their success.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DYLAN J. JOHNSON

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Dylan J. Johnson. Dylan died 3 years ago today, June 26, 2011, of injuries suffered from an improvised explosive device in Diyala Province, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.

Dylan was born November 07, 1990, in Tulsa, OK. His father Jeff Johnson said Dylan ''had aspired to military service for years and dressed as a soldier for Halloween six years running.'' After Dylan graduated from Jenks High School, he joined the military in August 2009, largely inspired by the men on both sides of his family who served with the military during World War II and Korea.

After completing basic training at Fort Knox, KY, Dylan was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX.

Specialist Johnson departed on Memorial Day 2011 for his first overseas deployment and arrived in Iraq June 2. On June 26, 2011, Dylan tragically died of injuries he sustained when insurgents attacked his armored vehicle with an improvised explosive device. One other soldier in the vehicle was killed alongside of Dylan.

''Dylan possessed a kind spirit and was a bit reserved in my world literature class,'' said teacher, Ron Acebo. ''We all ache for the loss of this young life and grieve with his family. As teachers, we all hold hopes and dreams for our students. We do not know what he could have achieved but we are humbled that he had made the supreme sacrifice for his country. . . . and that is how he will be remembered.''

A memorial service was held July 6, 2011, at Kirk of the Hills Church in Tulsa, OK and he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 9, 2011.

At a ceremony on his birthday in 2013, the State of Oklahoma dedicated to his memory the bridge on U.S. 75 across Polecat Creek, just south of Main Street in Jenks, OK. A sign reading ''Specialist Dylan Johnson Memorial Bridge'' was emplaced on the structure, and his father asked those gathered to remember Oklahoma's other fallen soldiers when they cross it.

Dylans's military honors include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Combat Service Star.

In addition to his father, Dylan is survived by his mother Joy Sehl; his stepmother Lynda Johnson; two sisters, Alexandra Johnson and Kathryn Sehl; and two stepsisters, Brittany Dinan and Brooke Dinan. All are of Tulsa, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Dylan J. Johnson, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JORDAN M. MORRIS

Madam President, I now wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Jordan M. Morris. Along with 4 other soldiers, Jordan died August 11, 2011 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jordan was born in Elk City, OK on February 12, 1988, and later moved to Ripley, OK. While attending Ripley High School, he was a member of the baseball team, National Honor Society, 4–H, and served as Student Council president. He was concurrently enrolled and graduated from the Oklahoma School of Science and Math. As an active member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church, he was very involved with the youth group and enjoyed spending time serving others on various mission trips.

After graduating as class valedictorian from Ripley High School in 2006, he fulfilled a dream he had from the age of 8 as he was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Jordan spent 4 years at West Point, majoring in mechanical engineering. Friend Caleb Eytcheson said Jordan ''wanted to be the best, and he knew West Point is where they trained the best. He wanted to serve his country,'' he said.

Jordan joined the Army in January 2011, serving as an infantryman. After completing training at Fort Benning, GA he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. On May 5, 2011, Jordan deployed to Afghanistan.

Doug Scott, assistant principal of Ripley High School said Morris was intelligent, had a great sense of humor and was very popular in school. ''He showed his unselfish side by going overseas,'' Scott said.

Jordan's baseball coach, Donnie Hoffman said: ''The world is not as good a place, when you lose people with the character that he was. The legacy he leaves behind was the way he led his life, the character, the discipline, the dedication, the honor.''

Jordan was buried August 20, 2011 at Palmer Marler Funeral Home in Stillwater, OK.

Jordan is survived by his parents Brett and Nita (Faber) Morris of Stillwater; two brothers Levi James and Jesse Isaac Morris of Stillwater; grandparents Wilma Faber, of Tulsa, James and Patricia Morris, of Broken Arrow; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, as well as his former West Point classmates and fellow soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Today we remember Army SPC Jordan M. Morris, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JOSHUA M. SEALS

Madam President, I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Joshua M. Seals. Specialist Seals died August 16, 2011 of non-combat injuries at Forward Operating Base Lightening in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard.

Joshua was born April 10, 1990, in Glendale, AZ and later moved to Porter, OK. While attending Porter High School he played football, was an honor roll student and a member of the academic team. He was also active in Wagoner County 4–H and showed Dutch rabbits.

He joined the military as a truck driver in 2008 while still in high school. Aunt Trina Seals said ''his mother and father served in the Army, and he felt it was just something he wanted to do.''

''My thoughts and prayers go out to the Seals family and friends,'' said Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Oklahoma's adjutant general. ''As we mourn his loss in the days ahead, we will be forever honored and proud that he chose to serve his country and the people of Oklahoma in the National Guard.''

Principal Larry Shackelford described him as a great student and a wonderful young man with a bright outlook.

A memorial and burial service was held August 27, 2011 at Greenwood Cemetery in Porter, OK.

Specialist Seals is survived by his parents Rhonda and Stanley; wife Andrina; and siblings Jeremy, Sarah and James.

Today we remember Army SPC Joshua M. Seals, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JAMES T. WICKLIFF-CHACIN

Madam President, I pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC James T. Wickliff-Chacin of Edmond, OK who died on September 20, 2013 serving our nation in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan. Specialist Wickliff-Chacin was assigned to 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, GA.

James died at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol during combat operations in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan on August 12, 2013. He was 22 years old.

Born February 18, 1991 in Venezuela, James moved to Oklahoma with his family in 2006. He graduated from Edmond Santa Fe High School in 2010. After graduation, he enlisted as an infantryman in the Army in June 2010 and arrived at his unit in October 2010.

''He had a good future,'' his father said. ''He had all the scores to go to whatever college he wanted.'' But James wanted to join the Army. Friends said he was proud of his service even before he graduated from high school.

''I remember him as a young man who very much wanted to go into the military,'' said his former high school principal Jason Brown. The following year, before graduation, James had asked ahead of time if the school was going to do anything to recognize students who would be serving in the military. ''I told him he would have to wait but he was in for a surprise,'' Brown said. ''During graduation we always asked for those individuals to stand up who wanted to go into the military. I distinctly remember looking for and finding him in the audience and he was smiling ear to ear.''

This was his second deployment; he previously deployed to Iraq from March to June 2011.

In May 2013, James wrote on his Facebook page ''I am proud to carry the legacy of my family. We are warriors at heart that fight against all odds to protect those who need us. There is nothing else that I would rather be doing with my life.''

James was laid to rest at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK on October 3, 2013. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal of Valor.

Today we remember Army SPC James T. Wickliff-Chacin, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA FOUBERG

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Andrea ''Andi'' Fouberg, communications director in my Washington, DC office, for over 9 years of hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Andi is a native of Letcher, SD, and is a graduate of South Dakota State University, SDSU. During her time working in the Senate, Andi has worked as deputy State director, deputy communications director, and as communications director. On July 7, 2014 Andi will become the president and chief executive officer at the SDSU Alumni Association.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Andi for nearly a decade of dedicated work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNITY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to honor the town of Unity, NH. This great American community is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, and I am proud to recognize this historic event.

Located in Sullivan County in the western part of the State, the town of Unity includes the villages of Unity, East and West Unity, and Quaker City. The origins of Unity date back to 1753 when the territory then known as Buckingham was chartered through a series of grants from New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth and the Massachusetts government. Unfortunately, this grew territorial tension among the local residents, so in 1764 the town of Unity was formally incorporated. Today Unity is home to approximately 1,700 New Hampshire residents who take great pride in living their lives as their town name intended them to, in unity.

The Unity Town Hall, which today serves as the official location for Unity Town Hall meetings, was constructed in 1831. It was originally a Baptist meeting house, but the town of Unity purchased the building for $25.00 in 1877. It has since undergone renovation but still stands proudly today where in the bell tower hangs a famed Revere Bell which will ring forth in celebration of Unity on July 11, 2014.

Unity is an example of a quintessential New Hampshire town whose citizens embody everything that it means to be great Americans. So today we honor the 250th anniversary of Unity, NH. We commend its citizens and recognize their accomplishments, their love of country, and their spirit of independence. But more importantly, we look forward to the next 250 years and the great things this town will have to offer.●

RECOGNIZING WILD TOUCH TAXIDERMY

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, more and more small businesses across America have started to pursue opportunities outside of our borders by extending their markets globally. According to the Small Business Administration, almost 96 percent of consumers reside outside of the United States. The benefits to small businesses that export are compelling. According to a report by the Institute for International Economics, U.S. exporting firms grow 2 to 4 percent faster in employing than their nonexporting counterparts, offer better opportunities for advancement, expand their annual total sales faster, and are nearly 8.5 percent less likely to go out of business.

Today, I would like to recognize one such U.S. small business that has experienced growth in revenues and employment because they have pursued exporting opportunities across the globe. Wild Touch Taxidermy in Meridian, ID, a small business dedicated to quality products, has achieved an outstanding reputation both domestically and overseas.

Licensed since 1985, Wild Touch Taxidermy specializes in custom taxidermy for customers who desire a unique and high-quality trophy. Family owned and operated by Kelly and Sharon Adams, Wild Touch Taxidermy lives up to their motto, ''We Do It All.'' The small taxidermy business offers a high-quality way to preserve and display trophy animals of all sizes and from any country, including skull mounts, old mounts, tan hides, and clean skulls. Wild Touch Taxidermy operates in a federally approved facility with U.S. Department of Agriculture permission, allowing them to receive restricted and out-of-country imports and enabling them to expand their business internationally.

To bolster its success, Wild Touch Taxidermy took full advantage of export assistance through the Idaho Department of Commerce, which connected the business to Taiwanese buyers through its trade office in Taipei. The business's exposure to the Asian market allowed them to expand the business to China. Wild Touch Taxidermy was also provided grant funds through the Small Business Administration's State Trade and Export Promotion Program, which seeks to grow the number of U.S. small businesses that export their goods and services to foreign buyers. The additional aid for 2 years allowed the owners to attend several trade shows and trade missions in Taiwan and China, which resulted in a boost to the business's profitability and international presence. Utilizing STEP grants, Wild Touch Taxidermy's actual export sales for year one leveraged a return on investment of 15 to 1 and actual export sales for year two leveraged a return on investment of 74 to 1, with anticipation of more sales in the international market.

With 29 years of experience, Wild Touch Taxidermy has achieved a reputation of excellence both domestically and internationally. Wild Touch Taxidermy's dedication to quality, persistence in pursuing new opportunities, and their efficient use of export assistance have allowed their business to catapult to the next level. I congratulate Kelly and Sharon Adams and wish them an abundance of success in the future.●

JONES COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Jones County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Jones County worth over $870,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $5.6 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's work to secure funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for programs I fought for to mitigate and prepare for natural disasters and provide safety equipment and training for firefighters.

Among the highlights:

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Jones County has received over $2.9 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the meth-amphetamine epidemic. During the mid-to-late 1990's, cities in Jones County received $311,465 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Jones County's fire departments have received over $985,443 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Jones County has received $750,273 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Jones County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $82,973.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Jones County has received more than $687,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Jones County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Jones County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Jones County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WAYNE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its

vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Wayne County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Wayne County worth over $100,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $23 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the great work that the Wayne County Public Health Department has done to secure wellness funding to improve the health and lives of its residents.

Among the highlights:

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Wayne County has recognized this important issue by securing more than $100,000 for community wellness activities.

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Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Wayne County has received more than $20 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Wayne County's fire departments have received over $850,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Wayne County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Wayne County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Wayne County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the Nevada National Guard's 45th Detachment of the Operational Support Airlift Agency, DET 45 OSAA, located at Reno-Stead airport. On June 6th, this unit departed for Joint Base Bagram, Afghanistan, where they will be serving for the next 9 months.

While tensions continue to rise in the Middle East, I am both humbled and honored that these brave men and women are willing to go into harm's way to put the needs of our country before their own. We owe our respect and gratitude to these soldiers, who are sacrificing so much to defend our freedoms. The DET 45 OSAA unit has a flawless reputation for providing safely executed flight operations both nationally and internationally without any accidents for the past 20 years, which has earned them a spot among the top 10 units for the past 10 years. I, along with my fellow Nevadans are honored that the DET 45 OSAA Unit call Nevada home. We as a nation are fortunate to have men and women, like those in the DET 45 OSAA unit, to serve and protect us.

The Nevada National Guard's 45th Detachment plays an integral role within the Operational Support Airlift Agency's mission by providing high priority, short notice fixed wing air transport support to passengers and cargo for all components and members of the Department of Defense. DET 45 OSAA has supported many missions both nationally and abroad. From 2003 to 2010 the unit flew missions in Cuba in support of Special Forces operations, and were deployed to Iraq and Kuwait supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the United States Africa Command. The DET 45 OSAA unit has also supported ground forces by flying an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission with the King Air 300 series Medium Altitude Reconnaissance

and Surveillance System aircraft. Most recently, the State of Nevada has contributed to a new intelligence mission by providing soldiers working as Aerial Electronic Sensor Operators to perform their newest intelligence mission.

I would like to thank the courageous men and women in DET 45 OSAA for their contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. Their service to our country and their bravery and dedication to their families and communities earn all of these heroes a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing and thanking these heroes for their selfless service both at home and abroad. May they have another successful mission and a safe return home.●

RECOGNIZING SQUADBAY

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a veterans volunteer program within Las Vegas known as Squadbay for their continued dedication to help their fellow servicemembers transition back from the battlefield to their communities. This unique program comprised of Marine Corps combat veterans provides recently discharged veterans with a mission, which uses newly acquired battlefield skills, and provides housing and other resources.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women who lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the founders and volunteers at Squadbay have developed a way to assist our Nation's veterans in need by affording them various ways to use their training to benefit others. I commend this organization's continued dedication to serving Marine combat veterans needing to process traumatic experiences while simultaneously affecting a positive change in the lives of those in need of humanitarian assistance. Squadbay was founded by Lu Lobello, a brave veteran living in Las Vegas who realized the importance of having a mission after returning home from combat in Baghdad. Lu serves as a shining example of putting one's community before oneself.

With its first mission in 2013 to the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda, Squadbay's service extends far beyond our Nation's borders. By allowing veterans the ability to continue using their combat training in a new environment, with a new mission that mirrors the values of their military experience, Squadbay is working to create a seamless transition to civilian life for our veterans. By providing a safe and social space for combat veterans to come together and the opportunity to embark on humanitarian aid missions, they are affording these brave men and women an opportunity to work through any issues brought on by experiencing combat.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like Squadbay are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Squadbay, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. Their commitment to helping rehabilitate our veterans by giving them an outlet to embark on humanitarian aid missions in a positive life-changing scenario is admirable, and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GEORGE

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on June 24, my hometown of Detroit and the State of Michigan lost a great friend and public servant. Indeed, the loss of Michael George at the age of 81 was a tremendous loss for all those who admire hard work, dedication, generosity, and commitment to making the world a better place.

The son of immigrants, Mike was best known to many through his successful business ventures. He built a small, family-owned dairy business into Melody Farms, one of the largest and most successful dairy producers and distributors in the country.

Had that been his only endeavor, we would have called Mike's life well-lived. But Mike was more than a businessman. He became a leader in Detroit's Chaldean community. Chaldeans—Catholics originating mainly from Iraq—settled in large numbers in Detroit along with other immigrants from the Middle East. Mike was deeply proud of his Chaldean heritage. He helped found the Chaldean Iraqi Association of Michigan, and chaired the Chaldean Federation of America. He helped hundreds of Chaldean-owned businesses to grow. And as religious minorities came under increasing persecution in the Middle East, he became a leader in helping to settle endangered Iraqi Christians in the United States.

Mike didn't just serve the Chaldean community. He was passionately committed to Detroit and its rebirth. He served on countless charitable foundation boards and supported a host of worthy causes.

Mike George was a walking, talking personification of the American Dream. He was a friend to the city of Detroit. He was a friend to me. Barbara and I join Mike's legion of friends in Michigan and around the country extending our condolences to his wife Najat, and his family and friends.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROY BAHR

● Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the service of a patriot and decorated Soldier, COL Roy W. Bahr. Roy joined the U.S. Army in 1950 after the onset of the Korean War. Shortly after graduating from Officer Candidate School, he deployed to Korea and served as an infantry platoon leader. Following his deployment, Colonel Bahr volunteered for U.S. Army Special Forces and went on to serve with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam. There, he was assigned as the commander of Forward Operating Base 3, Khe Sanh, leading elements of Military Assistance Command Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group, MACVSOG.

MACVSOG was tasked with conducting highly classified operations throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. This highly decorated unit was responsible for gathering critical intelligence throughout the conflict and was so effective that the North Vietnamese had to divert tens of thousands of troops in an attempt to counter MACVSOG operations. Consequently, MACVSOG's casualty rates were higher than any American unit since the American Civil War.

Only the best and most highly skilled commanders were involved with MACVSOG. During Colonel Bahr's time with MACVSOG, he commanded forward operating bases at Phu Bai, Kontum, and Khe Sanh. Colonel Bahr was responsible for dozens of reconnaissance teams and special reaction forces that often worked clandestinely in enemy occupied territory with limited support. It is difficult to fully articulate the risk incurred by Colonel Bahr and his men, or the difficulty of their missions, as they heroically served our Nation.

Colonel Bahr commanded MACVSOG, FOB–3 during the height of the siege at Khe Sanh in 1968. Under constant bombardment, Colonel Bahr's reconnaissance teams were given full authority to operate outside the compound during what would become one of the largest battles of the Vietnam war. Colonel Bahr's unit, in concert with a large contingent of U.S. Marines, fought to prevent the North Vietnamese units from overrunning the combat base at Khe Sanh.

Later in the conflict, Colonel Bahr organized and led a force to relieve an American operating base at Da Nang after it came under assault by North Vietnamese sappers on August 22 and 23, 1968. The North Vietnamese attack on Da Nang was the single deadliest day for U.S. Army Special Forces during the war. Colonel Bahr's relief effort and subsequent pursuit of remaining enemy personnel was critical in gaining full control of the base and saving American lives.

In early 1961, while visiting Fort Bragg, President Kennedy stated, ''The Green Beret is a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.'' COL

Roy W. Bahr's devotion to duty and professional leadership as a commander, a warrior and a Green Beret exemplifies this mark of distinction. Roy's life is testament to the highest attributes of American service, individual bravery, and patriotism, and I am glad to have this opportunity to thank him.●

TRIBUTE TO HUGH McVEY

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Hugh McVey on his retirement and to thank him for his many years of leadership and service to the field of labor. For over 40 years, Hugh has been a champion of workers' rights and has fought tirelessly to improve the lives of Missouri's workers and their families. It is my pleasure to honor him today.

A native of St. Louis, MO, Hugh comes from a working family of 11 children. His family's strong labor background encouraged him to get involved. His uncle Duke was president of the Missouri AFL–CIO for many years until Hugh succeeded him in 1999. Hugh considered his father and uncle his closest friends and respected their advice and support.

Hugh attended Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While there, he became involved with the operating engineers and was the group steward and later chief steward for Local 148 out of Collinsville, IL. He then became the business agent and assistant business manager for the same local.

After his time with the operating engineers, McVey worked for Union Electric, now Ameren, for 23 years and joined Operating Engineers Local 1148 in 1974. In 1997, Hugh relocated to Jefferson City, when he was elected executive vice president of the Missouri AFL–CIO. In 1999, he was elected President, and served for 17 years before his retirement this July.

During Hugh's tenure as president of the Missouri AFL–CIO, the organization was instrumental in advocating for the union rights Executive order, the Affordable Care Act, and the ''Made in Missouri'' jobs package. Hugh's effective leadership shaped the Missouri AFL–CIO into the outstanding organization it is today. As president, Hugh continued to attend local meetings and listened to workers' concerns. He effectively recruited candidates for local offices and worked with legislators on pending legislation that would impact the worker. Hugh considers the labor movement his life's work, never a job. Hugh is completely dedicated to ensuring that workers get a fair day's pay and reasonable benefits. His passion to help working families is unparalleled.

Hugh and his wife Peggy have three daughters: Megan, Maureen, and Colleen. I know they will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.

It is my pleasure to honor my friend Hugh McVey today. His dedicated leadership has improved the quality of the workplace for Missourians. He has touched the lives of many, and improved the quality of our community at large.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Hugh McVey.●

REMEMBERING HERMAN DILLON, SR.

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to honor Mr. Herman Dillon, Sr., who passed away on Friday, May 23, 2014. Mr. Dillon, Senior was the tribal council chairman of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in my home State of Washington and at the time of his passing had dedicated an astounding 35 years to the tribal council.

Mr. Dillon, Senior served his tribe and his country throughout his life. He joined the Navy Reserves at 17, at the tail end of World War II. Following 4 years in the Navy Reserves, he was drafted by the Army and served for 2 years guarding the port and prisoner of war camps in Puson during the Korean war. Of course, his life of service did not end there, and he was first elected to the Puyallup Tribal Council in 1971. In the time since he was first elected to the tribal council, Mr. Dillon, Senior experienced a number of historical changes. He saw his fellow tribal members get arrested for exercising their treaty-protected right to fish in the Puyallup River, and on February 12, 1974, Judge Boldt of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a decision affirming the rights of Washington treaty tribes to take up to half of the harvestable fish in Washington State fishing waters. Of course, he also served on the tribal council as the tribe experienced a time of great economic development and diversification of their business interests in an effort to set themselves on a path to economic sustainability.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Dillon, Senior throughout my time in the Senate. I was always impressed by his leadership, integrity, and dedication to the Puyallup people. He was their champion on issues from health care to the construction of a new tribal justice center. He also led by example, earning his GED when he was 50 years old and fostering children in his home. Even into his ninth decade of life, Mr. Dillon, Senior continued to advocate for his tribal community and was dedicated to solutions that would help his Tribe better themselves.

Washington State and our country lost a great tribal leader in May, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Dillon, Senior and advocate on the Puyallup Tribe's behalf in Washington, DC. My thoughts are with Darlene Dillon, Mr. Dillon, Senior's, wife of over 40 years, his 12 children, the children whose lives he changed through fostering, his entire extended family, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We are all better for having known him and will work to carry his legacy forward.●

TRIBUTE TO EMMA-SUE ISHOL

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Emma-Sue Ishol, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Emma is a graduate of St. Andrews Episcopal School in Potomac, MD. Currently, she is attending the Creighton University where she is majoring in accounting. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Emma for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KODY KYRISS

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kody Kyriss, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kody is a graduate of Menno High School in Menno, SD. This fall he will be attending law school at the University of South Dakota. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kody for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELSEY LUCKHURST

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kelsey Luckhurst, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kelsey is a graduate of Clark High School in Clark, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University, where she is majoring in political science and history. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kelsey for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXA MOELLER

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Alexa Moeller, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Alexa is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota where she is majoring in political science and criminal justice. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alexa for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DEREK OLSON

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Derek Olson, an intern in

my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Derek is a graduate of Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City, SD. Recently, Derek graduated from Iowa State University where he majored in political science. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Derek for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

WARRIORS AND QUIET WATERS FOUNDATION

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I wish to recognize the remarkable work of the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation.

Located in Bozeman, MT, the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation helps reintegrate combat-injured veterans and active servicemembers upon their return from deployment through fly fishing and other high-quality therapeutic recreation throughout Southwest Montana.

As the Senate's only Iraq war combat veteran, I know firsthand the cost of war. Men and women who were injured in combat pay a price for the rest of their lives. Our Nation must now heal a new generation of American heroes that carry with them wounds that are both visible and invisible.

As a nation, we took our citizens and turned them into the best warriors the world has ever seen. Now, it is time we take those warriors and turn them back into citizens.

In 2007, the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation left shore with 14 wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to drop a line in one of Montana's pristine rivers.

The goal was to build hope, facilitate camaraderie, and find serenity through fly fishing. That is exactly what they accomplished.

Commanded by retired Marine Col. Eric Hastings and Dr. Volney Steele, Warriors and Quiet Waters has provided over 300 veterans and their spouses a fly fishing experience complete with world-class guides on some of our Nation's blue ribbon streams.

But, the mission is not complete.

More than 50,000 American servicemembers have been injured in combat over the past 13 years, and thousands more suffer from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries as a result of their service to our Nation.

The Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation has identified a model for the difficult reintegration process that so many of our young veterans will be going through as a result of a decade of war.

Their commitment to those who served so bravely on our behalf is more than commendable—it is inspiring and is a strong example of how we can fulfill our Nation's responsibility to those who have served.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 25, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6. An act to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4899. An act to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4899. An act to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3301. An act to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 26, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6235. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Organization; Disclosure to Shareholders; Disclosure to Investors in System-wide and Consolidated Bank Debt Obligations of the Farm Credit System; Advisory Vote'' (RIN3052–AD00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6236. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael R. Moeller, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6237. A communication from the Director, Facilities Services Directorate, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Facilities Services Directorate/Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office (PENREN) annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6238. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Regulations Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau'' (RIN2501–AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6239. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Burmese Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6240. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, relative to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6241. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6242. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the competitiveness of the export financing services for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6243. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6244. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reliability Assurance Program'' (NRC–2013–0123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6245. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Northern Mexican Gartersnake and Narrow-headed Gartersnake'' (RIN1018–AY23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6246. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Ivesia webberi'' (RIN1018–AZ12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6247. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Ivesia webberi'' (RIN1018–AZ57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6248. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9912–55–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6249. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Georgia: State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions'' (FRL No. 9912–82–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6250. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Export Provisions of the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Rule'' ((RIN2050–AG68) (FRL No. 9911–84–OSWER)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6251. A communication from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual Eligibles: 2014 (OEI–05–14–00170)''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6252. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to Scheduling and Appearing at Hearings'' (RIN0960–AH37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the 1974 Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: United States Munitions List Category XI (Military Electronics), and Other Changes'' (RIN1400–AD25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6256. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–75, Introduction'' (FAC 2005–75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6257. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; EPEAT Items'' (RIN9000–AM71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6258. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contracting with Women-Owned Small Business Concerns'' (RIN9000–AM59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6259. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–75, Small Entity Compliance Guide'' (FAC 2005–75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6260. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Compensation Costs'' (RIN9000–AM75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6261. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation'' (RIN1210–AB61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6262. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priorities, Requirement, and Definitions; Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program'' (CFDA No. 84.215G); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6263. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–6264. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2013 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6265. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral William H. McRaven, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6266. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6267. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System; Regulations to Certify and Integrate Regional Information Coordination Entities'' (RIN0648–ZA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6268. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2534. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–198).

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–199).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2554. An original bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline (Rept . No. 113–200).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1104. A bill to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–201).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1448. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–202).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1933. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–203).

H.R. 3212. A bill to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–204).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

*Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2533. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to include in any proposed rule that limits greenhouse gas emissions and imposes increased costs on other Federal agencies an offset from funds available to the Administrator for all projected increased costs that the proposed rule would impose on other Federal agencies; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2534. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2535. A bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2536. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for enhanced criminal and civil remedies in the protection of children and other victims of commercial sexual exploitation and related crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2537. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2538. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2539. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2540. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to Patriot employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2541. A bill to allow additional appointing authorities to select individuals from competitive service certificates; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 2542. A bill to clarify the effect of State statutes of repose on the required commencement date for actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2543. A bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHANNS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2544. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2545. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 2546. A bill to repeal a requirement that new employees of certain employers be automatically enrolled in the employer's health benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2547. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2548. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2549. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2550. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COATS):

S. 2551. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Innovative Approaches to Technology Transfer Grant Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2552. A bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2553. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2554. An original bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2555. A bill to require a report on military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2556. A bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2557. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2558. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to revise the definition of the term ''colonia'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2559. A bill to provide greater transparency, accountability, and safety authority to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (by request):

S. 2560. A bill to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2561. A bill to prevent organized human smuggling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America; read the first time.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2563. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway safety and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COATS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Res. 486. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that President Obama should take immediate action to mitigate the humanitarian crisis along the international border between the United States and Mexico involving unaccompanied migrant children and to prevent future crises; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Res. 487. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. should appoint a special counsel or prosecutor to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WALSH):

S. Res. 488. A resolution designating July 26, 2014, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. Res. 489. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''Growth Awareness Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 490. A resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 491. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Kings on winning the 2014 Stanley Cup Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 492. A resolution congratulating ''A Prairie Home Companion'' on its 40 years of engaging, humorous, and quality radio programming; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 493. A resolution designating July 11, 2014, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'' and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 494. A resolution relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 719, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to clarify the orphan drug exception to the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers.

S. 1184

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1184, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include information on the coverage of intensive behavioral therapy for obesity in the Medicare and You Handbook and to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1396

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1396, a bill to authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency to award mitigation financial assistance in certain areas affected by wildfire.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 2349

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2349, a bill to establish a grant program to enable States to promote participation in dual enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2496, a bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2507

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2507, a bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for

purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2537. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2537

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 ''Red River Private Property Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1923, the Supreme Court found the border between Texas and Oklahoma to be: ''the water-washed and relatively permanent elevation or acclivity at the outer line of the river bed which separates the bed from the adjacent upland, whether valley or hill, and serves to confine the waters within the bed and to preserve the course of the river, and that the boundary intended is on and along the bank at the average or mean level attained by the waters in the periods when they reach and wash the bank without overflowing it. When we speak of the bed, we include all of the area which is kept practically bare of vegetation by the wash of the waters of the river from year to year in their onward course, although parts of it are left dry for months at a time, and we exclude the lateral valleys, which have the characteristics of relatively fast land and usually are covered by upland grasses and vegetation, although temporarily overflowed in exceptional instances when the river is at flood.''.

(2) This would become known as the ''gradient boundary''.

(3) This decision makes clear that, absent water that is physically touching the bank, the high bluff or ''ancient bank'' along the southern edge of the Red River is not the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma.

(4) In 2000, Public Law 106–288 ratified the Red River Boundary Compact agreed to and signed into State law by Texas and Oklahoma that sets the boundary between the States to be the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River, except for the Texoma area where the boundary is established pursuant to procedures provided for in the Compact.

(5) Therefore, the Bureau of Land Management should have no claim to land that is either south of the ''gradient boundary'' established by the Supreme Court or south of the vegetation line on the southern bank of the Red River pursuant to Public Law 106–288 whereby landowners have proof of their right, title, and interest to the land and have been paying property taxes accordingly.

SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF QUIT CLAIM DEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall relinquish and shall transfer by quit claim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to Red River lands to any claimant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that official county or State records indicate that the claimant holds all right, title, and interest to those lands.

(b) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register and on official and appropriate Web sites the process to receive written and/or electronic submissions of the documents required under subsection (a). The Secretary shall treat all proper notifications received from the claimant as fulfilling the satisfaction requirements under subsection (a).

(c) STANDARD OF APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall accept all official county and State records as filed in the county on the date of submission proving right, title, and interest.

(d) TIME PERIOD FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF REQUEST.—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a request for a quit claim deed under subsection (a) not later than 120 days after the date on which the written request is received by the Secretary. If the Secretary fails to approve or disapprove such a request by the end of such 120-day period, the request shall be deemed to be approved.

SEC. 4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The Secretary shall ensure that no parcels of Red River lands are treated as Federal land for the purpose of any resource management plan until the Secretary has ensured that such parcels are not subject to transfer under section 3.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term ''Red River lands'' means lands along the approximately 539-mile stretch of the Red River between the States of Texas and Oklahoma; and

(2) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of Bureau of Land Management.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2540. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to Patriot employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2540

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 ''Patriot Employer Tax Credit Act''.

SEC. 2. PATRIOT EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45S. PATRIOT EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT.

''(a) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the Patriot employer credit determined under this section with respect to any taxpayer who is a Patriot employer for any taxable year shall be equal to 10 percent of the qualified wages paid or incurred by the Patriot employer.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of qualified wages which may be taken into account under paragraph (1) with respect to any employee for any taxable year shall not exceed $15,000.

''(b) PATRIOT EMPLOYER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term 'Patriot employer' means, with respect to any taxable year, any taxpayer—

''(A) which—

''(i) maintains its headquarters in the United States if the taxpayer (or any predecessor) has ever been headquartered in the United States, and

''(ii) is not (and no predecessor of which is) an expatriated entity (as defined in section 7874(a)(2)) for the taxable year or any preceding taxable year ending after March 4, 2003,

''(B) with respect to which no assessable payment has been imposed under section 4980H with respect to any month occurring during the taxable year, and

''(C) in the case of—

''(i) a taxpayer which employs an average of more than 50 employees on business days during the taxable year, which—

''(I) provides compensation for at least 90 percent of its employees for services provided by such employees during the taxable year at an hourly rate (or equivalent thereof) not less than an amount equal to 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for a family of three for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins divided by 2,080,

''(II) meets the retirement plan requirements of subsection (c) with respect to at least 90 percent of its employees providing services during the taxable year who are not highly compensated employees, and

''(III) meets the additional requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2), or

''(ii) any other taxpayer, which meets the requirements of either subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) for the taxable year.

''(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE EMPLOYERS.—

''(A) UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT.—The requirements of this subparagraph are met for any taxable year if—

''(i) in any case in which the taxpayer increases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year outside the United States, the taxpayer either—

''(I) increases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services inside the United States by an amount not less than the increase in such number for employees outside the United States, or

''(II) has a percentage increase in such employees inside the United States which is not less than the percentage increase in such employees outside the United States,

''(ii) in any case in which the taxpayer decreases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year inside the United States, the taxpayer either—

''(I) decreases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services outside the United States by an amount not less than the decrease in such number for employees inside the United States, or

''(II) has a percentage decrease in employees outside the United States which is not less than the percentage decrease in such employees inside the United States, and

''(iii) there is not a decrease in the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year inside the United States by reason of the taxpayer contracting out such services to persons who are not employees of the taxpayer.

''(B) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THE DISABLED.—The requirements of this subparagraph are met for any taxable year if—

''(i) the taxpayer provides differential wage payments (as defined in section 3401(h)(2)) to each employee described in section

3401(h)(2)(A) for any period during the taxable year in an amount not less than the difference between the wages which would have been received from the employer during such period and the amount of pay and allowances which the employee receives for service in the uniformed services during such period, and

''(ii) the taxpayer has in place at all times during the taxable year a written policy for the recruitment of employees who have served in the uniformed services or who are disabled.

''(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR APPLYING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND RETIREMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) MINIMUM WAGE.—In determining whether the minimum wage requirements of paragraph (1)(C)(i)(I) are met with respect to 90 percent of a taxpayer's employees for any taxable year—

''(i) a taxpayer may elect to exclude from such determination apprentices or learners that an employer may exclude under the regulations under section 14(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and

''(ii) if a taxpayer meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(B)(i) with respect to providing differential wage payments to any employee for any period (without regard to whether such requirements apply to the taxpayer), the hourly rate (or equivalent thereof) for such payments shall be determined on the basis of the wages which would have been paid by the employer during such period if the employee had not been providing service in the uniformed services.

''(B) RETIREMENT PLAN.—In determining whether the retirement plan requirements of paragraph (1)(C)(i)(II) are met with respect to 90 percent of a taxpayer's employees for any taxable year, a taxpayer may elect to exclude from such determination—

''(i) employees not meeting the age or service requirements under section 410(a)(1) (or such lower age or service requirements as the employer provides), and

''(ii) employees described in section 410(b)(3).

''(c) RETIREMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this subsection are met for any taxable year with respect to an employee of the taxpayer who is not a highly compensated employee if the employee is eligible to participate in 1 or more applicable eligible retirement plans maintained by the employer for a plan year ending with or within the taxable year.

''(2) APPLICABLE ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'applicable eligible retirement plan' means an eligible retirement plan which, with respect to the plan year described in paragraph (1), is either—

''(A) a defined contribution plan which—

''(i) requires the employer to make nonelective contributions of at least 5 percent of the compensation of the employee, or

''(ii) both—

''(I) includes an eligible automatic contribution arrangement (as defined in section 414(w)(3)) under which the uniform percentage described in section 414(w)(3)(B) is at least 5 percent, and

''(II) requires the employer to make matching contributions of 100 percent of the elective deferrals (as defined in section 414(u)(2)(C)) of the employee to the extent such deferrals do not exceed the percentage specified by the plan (not less than 5 percent) of the employee's compensation, or

''(B) a defined benefit plan—

''(i) with respect to which the accrued benefit of the employee derived from employer contributions, when expressed as an annual retirement benefit, is not less than the product of—

''(I) the lesser of 2 percent multiplied by the employee's years of service (determined under the rules of paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of section 411(a)) with the employer or 20 percent, multiplied by

''(II) the employee's final average pay, or

''(ii) which is an applicable defined benefit plan (as defined in section 411(a)(13)(B))—

''(I) which meets the interest credit requirements of section 411(b)(5)(B)(i) with respect to the plan year, and

''(II) under which the employee receives a pay credit for the plan year which is not less than 5 percent of compensation.

''(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The term 'eligible retirement plan' has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8)(B), except that in the case of an account or annuity described in clause (i) or (ii) thereof, such term shall only include an account or annuity which is a simplified employee pension (as defined in section 408(k)).

''(B) FINAL AVERAGE PAY.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), final average pay shall be determined using the period of consecutive years (not exceeding 5) during which the employee had the greatest compensation from the taxpayer.

''(C) ALTERNATIVE PLAN DESIGNS.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations for a taxpayer to meet the requirements of this subsection through a combination of defined contribution plans or defined benefit plans described in paragraph (1) or through a combination of both such types of plans.

''(D) PLANS MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOCIAL SECURITY AND SIMILAR CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS.—A rule similar to the rule of section 416(e) shall apply.

''(d) QUALIFIED WAGES AND COMPENSATION.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified wages' means wages (as defined in section 51(c), determined without regard to paragraph (4) thereof) paid or incurred by the Patriot employer during the taxable year to employees—

''(A) who perform substantially all of their services for such Patriot employer inside the United States, and

''(B) with respect to whom—

''(i) in the case of a Patriot employer which employs an average of more than 50 employees on business days during the taxable year, the requirements of subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) are met, and

''(ii) in the case of any other Patriot employer, the requirements of either subclause (I) or (II) of subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) are met .

''(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND RAILWAY LABOR.—Rules similar to the rules of section 51(h) shall apply.

''(3) COMPENSATION.—For purposes of subsections (b)(1)(C)(i)(I) and (c), the term 'compensation' has the same meaning as qualified wages, except that section 51(c)(2) shall be disregarded in determining the amount of such wages.

''(e) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52 shall be treated as a single taxpayer.

''(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of applying paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of subsection (b)—

''(A) the determination under subsections (a) and (b) of section 52 for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be made without regard to section 1563(b)(2)(C) (relating to exclusion of foreign corporations), and

''(B) if any person treated as a single taxpayer under this subsection (after application of subparagraph (A)), or any predecessor of such person, was an expatriated entity (as defined in section 7874(a)(2)) for any taxable year ending after March 4, 2003, then all persons treated as a single taxpayer with such person shall be treated as expatriated entities.

''(f) ELECTION TO HAVE CREDIT NOT APPLY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer may elect to have this section not apply for any taxable year.

''(2) TIME FOR MAKING ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) for any taxable year may be made (or revoked) at any time before the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the last date prescribed by law for filing the return for such taxable year (determined without regard to extensions).

''(3) MANNER OF MAKING ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) (or revocation thereof) shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe.''.

(b) ALLOWANCE AS GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(37) in the case of a Patriot employer (as defined in section 45S(b)) for any taxable year, the Patriot employer credit determined under section 45S(a).''.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Subsection (a) of section 280C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''45S(a),'' after ''45P(a)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 3. DEFER DEDUCTION OF INTEREST EXPENSE RELATED TO DEFERRED INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 163 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to deductions for interest expense) is amended by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o) and by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

''(n) DEFERRAL OF DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST EXPENSE RELATED TO DEFERRED INCOME.—

''(1) GENERAL RULE.—The amount of foreign-related interest expense of any taxpayer allowed as a deduction under this chapter for any taxable year shall not exceed an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the sum of—

''(A) the taxpayer's foreign-related interest expense for the taxable year, plus

''(B) the taxpayer's deferred foreign-related interest expense.

For purposes of the paragraph, the applicable percentage is the percentage equal to the current inclusion ratio.

''(2) TREATMENT OF DEFERRED DEDUCTIONS.—If, for any taxable year, the amount of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) exceeds the taxpayer's foreign-related interest expense for the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a deduction for the taxable year an amount equal to the lesser of—

''(A) such excess, or

''(B) the taxpayer's deferred foreign-related interest expense.

''(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) FOREIGN-RELATED INTEREST EXPENSE.—The term 'foreign-related interest expense' means, with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year, the amount which bears the same ratio to the amount of interest expense for such taxable year allocated and apportioned under sections 861, 864(e), and 864(f) to income from sources outside the United States as—

''(i) the value of all stock held by the taxpayer in all section 902 corporations with respect to which the taxpayer meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902, bears to

''(ii) the value of all assets of the taxpayer which generate gross income from sources outside the United States.

''(B) DEFERRED FOREIGN-RELATED INTEREST EXPENSE.—The term 'deferred foreign-related interest expense' means the excess, if any, of the aggregate foreign-related interest expense for all prior taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014, over the aggregate amount allowed as a deduction under paragraphs (1) and (2) for all such prior taxable years.

''(C) VALUE OF ASSETS.—Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the value of any asset shall be the amount with respect to such asset determined for purposes of allocating and apportioning interest expense under sections 861, 864(e), and 864(f).

''(D) CURRENT INCLUSION RATIO.—The term 'current inclusion ratio' means, with respect to any domestic corporation which meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902 with respect to one or more section 902 corporations for any taxable year, the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of—

''(i) the sum of all dividends received by the domestic corporation from all such section 902 corporations during the taxable year plus amounts includible in gross income under section 951(a) from all such section 902 corporations, in each case computed without regard to section 78, divided by

''(ii) the aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings.

''(E) AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF POST-1986 UNDISTRIBUTED EARNINGS.—The term 'aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings' means, with respect to any domestic corporation which meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902 with respect to one or more section 902 corporations, the domestic corporation's pro rata share of the post-1986 undistributed earnings (as defined in section 902(c)(1)) of all such section 902 corporations.

''(F) FOREIGN CURRENCY CONVERSION.—For purposes of determining the current inclusion ratio, and except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, the aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings for the taxable year shall be determined by translating each section 902 corporation's post-1986 undistributed earnings into dollars using the average exchange rate for such year.

''(G) SECTION 902 CORPORATION.—The term 'section 902 corporation' has the meaning given to such term by section 909(d)(5).

''(4) TREATMENT OF AFFILIATED GROUPS.—The current inclusion ratio of each member of an affiliated group (as defined in section 864(e)(5)(A)) shall be determined as if all members of such group were a single corporation.

''(5) APPLICATION TO SEPARATE CATEGORIES OF INCOME.—This subsection shall be applied separately with respect to the categories of income specified in section 904(d)(1).

''(6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations or other guidance as is necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including regulations or other guidance providing—

''(A) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to changes in ownership of a section 902 corporation,

''(B) that certain corporations that otherwise would not be members of the affiliated group will be treated as members of the affiliated group for purposes of this subsection,

''(C) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to the taxpayer's share of a deficit in earnings and profits of a section 902 corporation,

''(D) for appropriate adjustments to the determination of the value of stock in any section 902 corporation for purposes of this subsection or to the foreign-related interest expense to account for income that is subject to tax under section 882(a)(1), and

''(E) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to interest expense that is directly allocable to income with respect to certain assets.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2547. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, on December 30, 2013, outside of Casselton, ND, a train carrying crude oil derailed setting off a series of explosions and fire. The first on the scene that day were our local first responders from the Casselton Fire Department, a small volunteer department.

Whether floods, tornados, accidents, or man-made incidents, our local first responders are on the front line and we need to make sure they are trained and prepared to handle anything that may come their way and that they have the equipment necessary to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. The incident in Casselton and others across the country have shined a bright light on the need to make sure our local first responders are prepared specifically for emerging threats and hazards.

Only a few short years ago, trains carried very little crude. And when crude was carried by rail, it was in relatively small amounts mixed in with a variety of other commodities and container shipments. Since that time, our country has experienced impressive economic growth in the oil industry, but with that important growth we have seen an exponential increase in shipments of crude by rail. According to the Association of American Railroads, the number of carloads carrying crude oil on major freight railroads in the U.S. grew by more than 6,000 percent between 2008 and 2013. Now, we are seeing entire trains of linked tanker cars carrying more than half a million barrels of crude to market.

As we witnessed in Casselton, had the first responders not had the training they did, this disaster could have been much worse. It's important that our local first responders have access to training to prepare them for these emerging threats and hazards. Traffic continues to increase on our rail system, and we must make sure local first responders in our communities are equipped to respond quickly and appropriately.

To improve first responder training, I am introducing the RESPONSE Act to bring together relevant agencies, emergency responders, technical experts and the private sector under FEMA's National Advisory Council to review the training, resources, best practices and unmet needs on emergency response to railroad hazmat incidents, including crude oil transport. This group would be tasked with reviewing current training, funding, existing emergency response plans and providing recommendations on steps to enhance emergency responder training and improve the allocation of resources to meet the needs.

Our local first responders are on the front lines and will be the first to respond in an emergency. We need to make sure they are equipped with the knowledge and training to protect our communities. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2548. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as we are about to begin the Fourth of July district work period in my State and throughout this country, many people are going to be getting into their automobiles and they are going to be traveling. In general, people who live in rural States such as Vermont don't have the option of getting on a subway. They don't have the option of getting on a bus to get to work. They use their automobile. In Vermont and all across this country, people who are driving have noticed that the price of gasoline at the pump has soared and is today much higher than it used to be.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the national average retail price for regular unleaded gasoline is $3.70 a gallon—the highest price for this time of year since 2008. According to the AAA, drivers in three States have paid over $4 a gallon at the pump for more than a month, and those States are Hawaii, California, and Alaska. In my home State of Vermont, the current average for a gallon of gas is about $3.73.

When the price of gasoline goes up, a lot of people get hurt and the economy gets impacted. But mostly it affects working people who have no other option but traveling by car, and many of

these workers are making $10, $12, $15 an hour; and many of these workers have seen declines in their wages in recent years. Yet, in order to get to work to make a living, they have to get in the car and they have no choice but to pay soaring gas prices.

While gas prices are soaring, people should not be shocked or will not be shocked to know that the big oil companies, which have racked up $1.2 trillion in profits since 2001, are now telling us that the reason gas prices are going up is because of the volatile situation in Iraq. That is why suddenly gas prices have gone up—because of the conflict in Iraq.

The American people are sick and tired of hearing from the big oil companies using every excuse they possibly can. If it is snowing, the price of gas goes up. If there is conflict in the Middle East, the price of gas goes up. If it is raining, if it is sunny, if it is somebody's birthday, the price of gas goes up. Interestingly enough, we don't see that same logic when the price of gas should be going down, but it always seems to be going up. Meanwhile, the five biggest oil companies in America—again, not too surprisingly—continue to make huge profits. During the first quarter of this year, ExxonMobil made a profit of $9.1 billion—the first quarter; Shell made $7.3 billion, Chevron made $4.5 billion, and ConocoPhillips made $2.1 billion. The price of gas at the pump soars and the major oil companies make huge profits.

Last year, these five major oil companies—ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, ConocoPhillips—made $93 billion in profits. ExxonMobil alone made nearly $33 billion in profits in 2013.

So in the State of Vermont and all over this country, working people are seeing, in many cases, declines in their wages. Yet they have to get to work. Meanwhile, the price of oil, the price of gas soars, and the oil companies make out like bandits.

Here is the interesting point: When I was in high school—and I suspect kids all over the country are still being taught this—we learned about a theory called supply and demand. What supply and demand is about is when there is a lot of supply and limited demand, prices go down. When there is limited supply and a lot of demand, prices go up.

Well, guess what. To nobody's surprise, that is not the way it works in the oil industry. Today, there is more supply and less demand for gasoline than there was 5 years ago when the average price of a gallon of gas was just $2.69 a gallon. So let me repeat that. More supply, less demand, and today the price of a gallon of gas is $3.70 a gallon, but 5 years ago it was $2.69 a gallon. Where is the logic of supply and demand? Where is that process?

According to the EIA, there has been a 9 million barrel increase in the supply of gasoline over the past 5 years—a 9 million barrel increase. Since 2009, the United States has increased gasoline supplies by 4.3 percent. Supply has gone up. What about demand? According to the EIA, the United States is consuming 96,000 fewer barrels of gasoline than it did in 2009—a 1-percent drop in demand compared to 5 years ago. If the supply and demand theory were true, gasoline prices would be a bit lower—a bit lower—than they were 5 years ago—somewhere perhaps in the neighborhood of $2.69 a gallon. Instead, despite the increase in supply, despite the lowering of demand, the average price for a gallon of gas in the United States has gone up by nearly 38 percent over the last 5 years, from $2.69 a gallon to $3.70 a gallon. Let me repeat. Since 2009 the supply of gasoline has gone up by more than 4 percent and demand for gasoline has gone down by 1 percent. Yet prices at the pump are up by nearly 38 percent.

People say: We need more oil, we need more gas. It doesn't matter—supply up, demand down, prices of gas at the pump soaring.

The truth is the high gasoline prices have less to do with supply and demand and more to do with Wall Street speculators driving prices up in the energy futures market. Over a decade ago, speculators only controlled about 30 to 40 percent of the oil futures market. Today, Wall Street speculators control about 80 percent of this market. Let me repeat. Wall Street speculators control about 80 percent of the oil futures market, even though many of them will never use a drop of the oil. People think that when people own oil on the oil futures market, they actually own it because they are going to use it. Maybe it is the airline industry; maybe it is the trucking industry; maybe it is oil fuel dealers. Wrong. The oil futures market is controlled by speculators who never use the end product and whose only goal in life is to drive prices up to make a huge profit, and that is exactly what they do.

We, as the elected officials of this country, who are presumably representing working families around America, have a responsibility to do everything we can to make sure the price of gasoline at the pump is based on the fundamentals of supply and demand and not Wall Street greed. That is why I am introducing legislation today to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use all of its authority, including its emergency powers, to eliminate excessive oil speculation.

This bill is cosponsored by Senators LEVIN, NELSON, BLUMENTHAL, MCCASKILL, FRANKEN, BROWN, CARDIN, BALDWIN, WHITEHOUSE, MARKEY, KLOBUCHAR, SHAHEEN, MERKLEY, and HIRONO. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO is introducing the companion bill in the House. I thank all of these Members for their support.

Our legislation, the Energy Markets Emergency Act, is identical to bipartisan legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 402 to 19 during a similar crisis in June of 2008.

Specifically, our bill directs the CFTC to do the following within 14 days of enactment:

No. 1: Immediately curb the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded.

No. 2: Eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent gasoline and oil prices from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand.

There is now a growing consensus—this is not just the opinion of BERNIE SANDERS—there is a growing consensus that excessive speculation on the oil futures market is significantly contributing to the high prices the American people are seeing at the pump.

ExxonMobil, Goldman Sachs, the IMF, the St. Louis Federal Reserve, the American Trucking Association, Delta Airlines, the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, the New England Fuel Institute, the Consumer Federation of America, and many other organizations have all agreed that excessive oil speculation has significantly increased oil and gas prices.

Just a few years ago, Goldman Sachs—perhaps the largest speculator on Wall Street—came out with a report indicating that excessive oil speculation is costing Americans 56 cents a gallon at the pump—56 cents a gallon. I personally think that is a conservative estimate, but it is interesting that it comes from Goldman Sachs itself.

The CEO—and what can we say—the CEO of ExxonMobil has testified in the past that he believes excessive speculation has contributed as much as 40 percent to the price of a barrel of oil.

So what you are hearing is some of the Wall Street people—in a rare moment of honesty—acknowledging the impact of speculation. You are hearing the head of the largest oil company in America acknowledging the impact of speculation on gas prices. I think we do not need a whole lot of evidence to suggest this is a serious problem.

Three years ago my office obtained confidential information about how much Wall Street speculators were trading in the oil futures market on just one day—and that day was June 30, 2008—when the price of oil was over $140 a barrel and gas prices were over $4 a gallon. Here is what some of the biggest oil speculators were doing back then, on just one day of trading: June 30, 2008. This goes on every day. One day: Goldman Sachs bought and sold over 863 million barrels of oil, Morgan Stanley bought and sold over 632 million barrels of oil, Bank of America bought and sold over 112 million barrels of oil, Lehman Brothers—obviously now bankrupt—bought and sold over 300 million barrels of oil, Merrill

Lynch—bought by Bank of America—bought and sold over 240 million barrels of oil.

The only reason these firms were betting on the price of oil was to speculate and to make money. Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, they do not use oil. Their only function in this process is speculation, driving up prices and making huge profits.

The rise in oil and gasoline prices was entirely avoidable. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required the CFTC to impose strict limits on the amount of oil that Wall Street speculators could trade in the energy futures market by January 17, 2011—over 3½ years ago.

Unfortunately, the CFTC has been unable to implement position limits due to opposition from Wall Street and a ruling by the DC Circuit Court. This is simply unacceptable. Millions and millions of Americans who are filling up their gas tanks today are disgusted. They know they are being ripped off, and they want us to protect their needs. The time is now to provide the American people relief at the gas pump before the situation gets even worse.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2557. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Core Opportunity Resources for Equity and Excellence Act with my colleague Senator BROWN. I would also like to thank Representatives FUDGE, HINOJOSA, and FREDERICA WILSON for introducing companion legislation in the House of Representatives. Our accountability systems in education should help us measure our progress towards equity and excellence. The CORE Act will help advance that goal by requiring States to include fair and equitable access to the core resources for learning in their accountability systems.

Sixty years after the landmark decision of Brown v. Board of Education, one of the great challenges still facing this Nation is stemming the tide of rising inequality. We have seen the rich get richer while middle class and low-income families have lost ground. We see disparities in opportunity starting at birth and growing over a lifetime. With more than one in five school-aged children living in families in poverty, according to Department of Education statistics, we cannot afford nor should we tolerate a public education system that steers resources and opportunities away from the children who need them the most.

We should look to hold our education system accountable for results and resources. We know that resources matter. A recent study by scholars at Northwestern University and UC Berkeley found that increasing per pupil spending by 20 percent for low-income students over the course of their K–12 schooling results in greater high school completion, higher levels of educational attainment, increased lifetime earnings, and reduced adult poverty.

The recent Office of Civil Rights survey points to some gaps that we need to address, including that Black, Latino, American Indian, Native Alaskan students, and English learners attend schools with higher concentrations of inexperienced teachers; nationwide, one in five high schools lacks a school counselor; and between 10 and 25 percent of high schools across the nation do not offer more than one of the core courses in the typical sequence of high school math and science, such as Algebra I and II, geometry, biology, and chemistry.

The CORE Act will require State accountability plans and State and district report cards to include measures on how well the State and districts provide the core resources for learning to their students. These resources include: high quality instructional teams, including licensed and profession-ready teachers, principals, school librarians, counselors, and education support staff;

Rigorous academic standards and curricula that lead to college and career readiness by high school graduation and are accessible to all students, including students with disabilities and English learners; equitable and instructionally appropriate class sizes; up-to-date instructional materials, technology, and supplies; effective school library programs; school facilities and technology, including physically and environmentally sound buildings and well-equipped instructions space, including laboratories and libraries; specialized instructional support teams, such as counselors, social workers, nurses, and other qualified professionals; and effective family and community engagements programs.

These are things that parents in well-resourced communities expect and demand. We should do no less for children in economically disadvantaged communities. We should do no less for minority students or English learners or students with disabilities.

Under the CORE Act, states that fail to make progress on resource equity would not be eligible to apply for competitive grants authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. For school districts identified for improvement, the state would have to identify gaps in access to the core resources for learning and develop an action plan in partnership with the local school district to address those gaps.

The CORE Act is supported by a diverse group of organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, American Federation of Teachers, American Library Association, First Focus Campaign for Children, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Education Association, Opportunity Action, and the Coalition for Community Schools. Working with this strong group of advocates and my colleagues in the Senate and in the House, it is my hope that we can build the support to include the CORE Act in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this legislation.

By Mr. CARDIN (by request):

S. 2560. A bill to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill I am introducing that will provide the Department of Interior the necessary and appropriate authority to seek compensation from responsible parties who cause injury to public resources managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service like National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, and other Service facilities. The proposal would allow the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS, to recover costs for assessing injury and to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources without further Congressional appropriations. The National Park Service, NPS, under the Park System Resource Protection Act PSRPA—16 U.S.C. 19jj, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, NMSA—16 U.S.C. 1431, currently have similar authorities and its time USWFS were afforded this authority as well.

The Service Resource Protection Act, RPA, would enhance the protection and restoration of USFWS resources found on National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries and other Service lands, should injury or harm occur. The RPA is a proposed statute that specifically protects all living and non-living resources within Service lands and waters. Any funds collected to compensate for injury or destruction of Service resources would be used to rectify that specific harm without further Congressional appropriation. Under this authority, damages could be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize resource loss; abate or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

Currently, USFWS Service manages more than 150 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands and 71 National Fish Hatcheries. The sum of USFWS's acres is greater than those lands and water resources managed by the NPS

and NOAA combined. USFWS has significant land based management responsibilities that are quite different from NOAA, in addition to marine and estuarine areas USFWS manages. Compared to National Parks, Refuges allow for a broader range of activities—such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife dependent activities. The large size of the USFWS's resource portfolio and the unique and varied stressors on these resources makes it imperative that the USFWS have the appropriate authority to seek damages from responsible parties who degrade or destroy USFWS resources and property.

Unlike NPS and NOAA, USFWS does not have the authority to recover damages, e.g., monetary compensation, from responsible parties to assess and restore injured resources without prior Congressional appropriation. Today, when Service resources are damaged or destroyed, the costs for repair and restoration of these resources falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected Refuge, often at the expense of other Refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources.

When bad actors harm public resources managed by USFWS the responsibility for remedying the problems caused by bad actors should not fall to the taxpayer to solve. More over the fact that currently to repair damages to USFWS resources may require earmarks in the budget to ensure these problems are resolved is doubly unfair in that such budget requirements take resources away from other worthwhile projects that are unrelated to fixing the problems caused by irresponsible actors. It is patently unfair for taxpayers to shoulder the burden of solving the mistakes and negligence of others. The public expects that Refuge resources—and the broad range of activities they support—will be available for future generations. Our bill ensures that persons responsible for harm, not taxpayers, should pay for any injury they cause.

While the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program established under the Oil Pollution Act and CERCLA establishes a unique process for the USFWS to seek damages in limited circumstances involving oil spills and or the release of hazardous substances. These laws do not apply to situations when toxics materials and regular solid waste are dumped on or near a refuge that are not formally defined as hazardous substances and the USFWS is not authorized to recover funds to address injury from the responsible party in these situations under existing statute. Additionally, for injuries caused by actions or mechanisms other than a 'spill' of oil or release of a hazardous substance, such as illegal cutting of vegetation, destruction or vandalism of real property and facilities, e.g., kiosks, visitor centers, fire and abandoned debris, the USFWS has no statutory mechanism to recover costs for assessing and restoring the public's resources. In contrast, NPS and NOAA have statutory authority to recover civil damages for these types of injuries, and the funds go to the agencies for assessment and restoration.

USFWS manages 556 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts, covering over 150 million acres, and accounting for 25 percent of public lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior. The agency is also responsible for 71 National Fish Hatcheries and a National Conservation Training Center, which would also be covered by the proposed legislation. Management of the Refuge System prioritizes wildlife conservation and habitat management, but encourages the American public to enjoy the benefits of these lands. In the organic legislation, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, activities such as hunting, fishing, photography, wildlife observation, environmental education and interpretation were identified as priority public uses on Refuges.

Found in every U.S. State and territory, and within an hour's drive of most metropolitan areas, National Wildlife Refuges: attract approximately 45 million visitors each year; protect clean air and safe drinking water for nearby communities; protect more than 700 bird species, 220 mammals, 250 reptiles and amphibians, and 1,000 fish species; offers hunting on 322 refuges and fishing on 272 refuges; and generates more than $1.7 billion for local economies, creates nearly 27,000 U.S. jobs annually, provides $543 million in employment income, and adds more than $185 million in tax revenue.

The fiscal year 2014 appropriated budget for the Refuge System is approximately $72 million dollars, but it is estimated that the current operations and maintenance, O&M, backlog tops $3 billion dollars. The National Fish Hatchery System has a backlog in excess of $300 million. Because the Service does not have statutory authority to pursue recovery of damages from responsible parties, the cost of replacing or restoring injured Refuge or Hatchery resources typically gets included in the O&M project list, and requires tax-payer funding to fix. This legislation would allow the Service to recover damages directly from the person or persons that harmed the resource, thus removing this additional financial burden from taxpayers.

The legislation is not intended to generate revenue for the Service; instead, it aims to be budget neutral. Any funds collected to compensate for resource injuries will be used to rectify that specific injury without the need for Congressional appropriation. Under this authority, damages would be required to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize resource loss; abate or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

By way of example, NPS has recovered damages on cases ranging from $125.00—$10 million dollars for assessment and restoration of injuries to resources on their lands. However, a direct comparison between USFWS and NPS is of limited value, since the two agencies have dissimilar missions and allow for different activities on their lands. The Refuge and Hatchery systems also manage many more individual land units and twice the acreage of the NPS.

USFWS administers several laws, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, that provide for penalties and fees as part of civil or criminal proceedings. The RPA is a civil authority that would allow the Service to recover compensation in the form of monetary damages for costs associated with assessment and restoration of injured resources. It is intended to make the public whole: it is not meant to be punitive towards the person or persons who caused the injury. As part of the Annual Uniform Crime Report, AUCR, Service Law Enforcement has identified several categories of crimes in which they have prosecuted individuals for criminal violations and received associated fines. These fines are remitted to the U.S. Treasury and do not provide any means to assess injury or recover restoration costs associated with repairing or replacing resources. The Service has used Tort law to recover damages on occasion, but many of our cases do not meet the dollar threshold for pursuing a civil lawsuit by the Department of Justice. As a result, even though cases may be criminally prosecuted, most of them are not pursued as a potential civil claim.

However, if the Service had RPA authority, we could use a civil process to recover costs for assessment and restoration. The AUCR provides many examples of areas where the Service could use the civil authority under RPA in conjunction with other criminal procedures. In 2010, 39 arson offenses were reported on Service lands. Monetary loss to the government resulting from these cases totaled almost $850,000, but neither restoration funds, nor repair of the public's resources resulted from these prosecutions. Similarly, over 2,300 vandalism offenses, totaling $314,000 in monetary loss were documented. Other reported offenses number in the thousands and could lead to recovery of damages for many field stations: These include, illegal off-road use (n=2,234), trespass (n = 8,163), and other natural resource violations (n = 4,628). In these instances, the Service must choose between using tax-payer funded, appropriations to pay for assessing, repairing, replacing or restoring structures, habitat and other resources injured by the responsible party or for other important Refuge needs.

It is time to shed taxpayers' cost burden of repairs and restoration due to damage caused by the unlawful behavior of negligent individuals and give the USFWS the authority it need to collect damages from those responsible to do the work to right what's wrong. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2560

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''United States Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DAMAGES.—The term ''damages'' means—

(A) compensation for—

(i)(I) the cost of replacing, restoring, or acquiring the equivalent of a system resource; and

(II) the value of any significant loss of use of a system resource, pending—

(aa) restoration or replacement of the system resource; or

(bb) the acquisition of an equivalent resource; or

(ii) the value of a system resource, if the system resource cannot be replaced or restored; and

(B) the cost of any relevant damage assessment carried out pursuant to section 4(c).

(2) RESPONSE COST.—The term ''response cost'' means the cost of any action carried out by the Secretary—

(A) to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource;

(B) to abate or minimize the imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury; or

(C) to monitor the ongoing effects of any incident causing such destruction, loss, or injury.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) SYSTEM RESOURCE.—The term ''system resource'' means any living, nonliving, historical, cultural, or archeological resource that is located within the boundaries of—

(A) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(B) a unit of the National Fish Hatchery System; or

(C) any other land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, including any land managed cooperatively with any other Federal or State agency.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), any individual or entity that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any system resource, or that causes the Secretary to carry out any action to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injuries or risk to, any system resource, shall be liable to the United States for any response costs or damages resulting from the destruction, loss, or injury.

(b) LIABILITY IN REM.—Any instrumentality (including a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism) that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any system resource, or that causes the Secretary to carry out any action to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury or risk to, a system resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for any response costs or damages resulting from the destruction, loss, or injury, to the same extent that an individual or entity is liable under subsection (a).

(c) DEFENSES.—An individual or entity shall not be liable under this section, if the individual or entity can establish that—

(1) the destruction or loss of, or injury to, the system resource was caused solely by an act of God or an act of war; or

(2)(A) the individual or entity exercised due care; and

(B) the destruction or loss of, or injury to, the system resource was caused solely by an act or omission of a third party, other than an employee or agent of the individual or entity.

(d) SCOPE.—The liability established by this section shall be in addition to any other liability arising under Federal or State law.

SEC. 4. ACTIONS.

(a) CIVIL ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE COSTS AND DAMAGES.—The Attorney General, on request of the Secretary, may commence a civil action in the United States district court of appropriate jurisdiction against any individual, entity, or instrumentality that may be liable under section 3 for response costs or damages.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE COSTS AND DAMAGES.—

(1) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary, after making a finding described in subparagraph (B), may consider, compromise, and settle a claim for response costs and damages if the claim has not been referred to the Attorney General under subsection (a).

(B) DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS.—A finding referred to in subparagraph (A) is a finding that—

(i) destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource has occurred; or

(ii) such destruction, loss, or injury would occur absent an action by the Secretary to prevent, minimize, or abate the destruction, loss, or injury.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In any case in which the total amount to be recovered in a civil action under subsection (a) may exceed $500,000 (excluding interest), a claim may be compromised and settled under paragraph (1) only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General.

(c) RESPONSE ACTIONS, ASSESSMENTS OF DAMAGES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out all necessary actions (including making a request to the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief)—

(A) to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource; or

(B) to abate or minimize the imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may assess and monitor the destruction or loss of, or injury to, any system resource for purposes of paragraph (1).

(B) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any determination or assessment of damage to a system resource carried out under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to judicial review under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedure Act''), on the basis of the administrative record developed by the Secretary.

SEC. 5. USE OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An amount equal to the total amount of the response costs and damages recovered by the Secretary under this Act and any amounts recovered by the Federal Government under any provision of Federal, State, or local law (including regulations) or otherwise as a result of the destruction or loss of, or injury to, any system resource shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) USE.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under subsection (a) only, in accordance with applicable law—

(1) to reimburse response costs and damage assessments carried out pursuant to this Act by the Secretary or such other Federal agency as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

(2) to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of a system resource that was destroyed, lost, or injured; or

(3) to monitor and study system resources.

SEC. 6. DONATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services for expenditure or use to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages.

(b) TIMING.—A donation described in subsection (a) may be expended or used at any time after acceptance of the donation, without further action by Congress.

SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION FUND.

The matter under the heading ''NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION FUND'' under the heading ''UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'' of title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994 (43 U.S.C. 1474b–1), is amended by striking ''*Provided*, That'' and all that follows through ''activities.'' and inserting the following: ''*Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated or credited during fiscal year 1992 or any fiscal year thereafter may be transferred to any account (including through a payment to any Federal or non-Federal trustee) to carry out a negotiated legal settlement or other legal action for a restoration activity under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), the Act of July 27, 1990 (16 U.S.C. 19jj et seq.), or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act, or for any damage assessment activity: *Provided further*, That sums provided by any individual or entity before or after the date of enactment of this Act shall remain available until expended and shall not be limited to monetary payments, but may include stocks, bonds, or other personal or real property, which may be retained, liquidated, or otherwise disposed of by the Secretary for the restoration of injured resources or to conduct any new damage assessment activity.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 486—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO MITIGATE THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ALONG THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO INVOLVING UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN AND TO PREVENT FUTURE CRISES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COATS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 486

Whereas 1 in 5 children in the United States struggle with hunger;

Whereas research has found that more than 30 percent of low-income families do not have enough food during the summer months;

Whereas the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) exists to ensure that low-income children have access to adequate nutrition when the school year ends;

Whereas the summer food service program is designed to give hungry children a safe place to participate in fun, educational activities and to receive a meal;

Whereas thousands of schools and nonprofit organizations across the country serve as summer food service program sites;

Whereas summer programs are often under-utilized, as only 1 in 6 eligible children participate in the summer food service program, due in part to families being unaware that the summer food service program exists;

Whereas lack of transportation and other barriers often prevent children from accessing the summer food service program sites, especially in rural areas; and

Whereas almost 1 in 3 low-income children live in communities that are not eligible to participate in the summer food service program, thus reducing their ability to participate in the program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2014 as ''Summer Meals Awareness Month'';

(2) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to assist in efficient use of summer food service program sites by raising awareness of the location and availability of those sites;

(3) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to support efforts to increase the participation rate of eligible children who, without the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), may go without meals; and

(4) encourages members of Congress to visit a summer food service program site to see the importance of the program firsthand.

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC H. HOLDER, JR. SHOULD APPOINT A SPECIAL COUNSEL OR PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE NONPROFIT GROUPS BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 487

Whereas, in February 2010, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began targeting conservative nonprofit groups for extra scrutiny in connection with applications for tax-exempt status;

Whereas, on May 14, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) issued an audit report entitled, ''Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review'';

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that from 2010 until 2012, the IRS systematically subjected tax-exempt applicants to extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria, including use of the phrases ''Tea Party'', ''Patriots'', and ''9/12'';

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected without cause to delays lasting years;

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected to unreasonable and burdensome information requests, including requests for information about donors and political beliefs;

Whereas the Exempt Organizations Division within the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the IRS has jurisdiction over the processing and determination of tax-exempt applications;

Whereas, on September 15, 2010, Lois G. Lerner, former Director of the Exempt Organizations Division, initiated a project to examine political activity of organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, writing to her colleagues, ''[w]e need to be cautious so it isn't a per se political project'';

Whereas, on February 1, 2011, Lois Lerner wrote that the ''Tea Party matter [was] very dangerous'' and ''[t]his could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen's [sic] United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules'';

Whereas Lois Lerner ordered the Tea Party tax-exempt applications to proceed through a ''multi-tier review'' involving her senior technical advisor and the IRS Office of Chief Counsel;

Whereas Carter Hull, an IRS lawyer and a 48-year veteran of the United States Government, testified that the ''multi-tier review'' was unprecedented in his experience;

Whereas, on June 1, 2011, Holly Paz, Director of Rulings and Agreements within the Exempt Organizations Division, requested the tax-exempt application filed by Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies for review by Lois Lerner's senior technical advisor;

Whereas, on March 22, 2012, Commissioner of Internal Revenue Douglas Shulman was specifically asked about the targeting of Tea Party groups applying for tax-exempt status during a hearing before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, to which he replied, ''I can give you assurances . . . [t]here is absolutely no targeting'';

Whereas, on April 26, 2012, Lois Lerner informed the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives that information requests were done in ''the ordinary course of the application process'';

Whereas prior to the November 2012 election, the IRS provided 31 applications for tax-exempt status to the investigative website ProPublica, all of which were from conservative groups and 9 of which had not yet been approved by the IRS, in spite of a prohibition under Federal law against public disclosure of application materials until after the application has been approved;

Whereas the IRS determined, by way of informal, internal review, that 75 percent of the applications for designation as an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that were set aside for further review were filed by conservative-oriented organizations;

Whereas, on January 24, 2013, Lois Lerner wrote, in an email to colleagues, regarding Organizing for Action, a tax-exempt organization formed as an offshoot of the election campaign of President Barack Obama: ''Maybe I can get the DC office job!'';

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, Richard Pilger, Director of the Election Crimes Branch of the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice, spoke to Lois Lerner about potential prosecution for false statements about political campaign intervention made by tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas, on May 10, 2013, in response to a pre-arranged question, Lois Lerner apologized for the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS during a speech at an event organized by the American Bar Association;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, of the 298 applications delayed and set aside for additional scrutiny by the IRS, 83 percent were from right-leaning organizations;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, as of the May 10, 2013, apology from Lois Lerner, only 45 percent of the right-leaning groups set aside for extra scrutiny had been approved, while 70 percent of left-leaning groups and 100 percent of the groups with ''progressive'' names had been approved;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, of the groups that were inappropriately subject to demands to divulge confidential donors, 89 percent were right-leaning;

Whereas, on May 15, 2013, Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. testified before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that the Department of Justice would conduct a ''dispassionate'' investigation into the IRS matter, and ''[t]his will not be about parties . . . this will not be about ideological persuasions . . . anybody who has broken the law will be held accountable'';

Whereas, on May 15, 2013, President Barack Obama called the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS ''inexcusable'' and promised that he would ''not tolerate this kind of behavior in any agency, but especially in the IRS, given the power that it has and the reach that it has into all of our lives'';

Whereas Barbara Bosserman, a trial attorney at the Department of Justice who in the past several years has contributed nearly $7,000 to the Democratic National Committee and political campaigns of President Obama, is playing a leading role in the investigation by the Department of Justice;

Whereas the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice communicated

with the IRS about the potential prosecution of tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, President Obama declared in a national television interview that the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS was caused by a ''bureaucratic'' ''list'' by employees in ''an office in Cincinnati'';

Whereas, on April 9, 2014, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives referred Lois Lerner to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner used her position to improperly influence agency action against conservative tax-exempt organizations, denying these groups due process and equal protection rights as guaranteed by the United States Constitution, in apparent violation of section 242 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner targeted Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies while ignoring similar liberal-leaning tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner impeded official investigations by knowingly providing misleading statements to TIGTA, in apparent violation of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner may have disclosed confidential taxpayer information, in apparent violation of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

Whereas former Department of Justice officials have testified before a subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives that the circumstances of the investigation by the administration of the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS warrant the appointment of a special counsel;

Whereas Department of Justice regulations counsel attorneys to avoid the ''appearance of a conflict of interest likely to affect the public perception of the integrity of the investigation or prosecution'';

Whereas, on January 13, 2014, unnamed officials in the Department of Justice leaked to the media that no criminal charges would be appropriate for IRS officials who engaged in the targeting activity, which undermined the integrity of the investigation by the Department of Justice;

Whereas, on January 29, 2014, Attorney General Holder told the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, ''I don't think that there is a basis for us to conclude on the information as it presently exists that there is any reason for the appointment of the independent counsel . . . . The notion that somehow this has caused a loss of faith in this Justice Department is inconsistent with the facts'';

Whereas, on February 2, 2014, President Obama stated publicly that there was ''not even a smidgen of corruption'' in connection with the IRS targeting activity;

Whereas, on April 16, 2014, e-mails between the Department of Justice and the IRS were released showing that the Department of Justice considered prosecuting conservative nonprofit groups for engaging in political activity that is legal under Federal law, which damaged the integrity of the Department of Justice and undermined its investigation;

Whereas, on May 8, 2014, the IRS agreed to provide all of Lois Lerner's e-mails to investigators of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives;

Whereas, on May 14, 2014, e-mails obtained through a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'') by the nonprofit group Judicial Watch indicate that the Washington office of the IRS was examining applications for tax-exempt status by Tea Party organizations, which is contrary to claims that the cases were being handled by lower-level workers in Cincinnati;

Whereas, on June 11, 2014, James Comey, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), testified to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that FBI investigators did not examine the IRS database with taxpayer information, which included private taxpayer information that is prohibited from being shared without an order from a judge, and only looked at the table of contents;

Whereas, on June 13, 2014, IRS Office of Legislative Affairs Director Leonard Ourlser informed the Committee on Finance of the Senate that the IRS could not produce e-mails from January 2009 through April 2011 from Lois Lerner due to a computer crash;

Whereas, on June 17, 2014, the IRS stated that it could not produce e-mails from 6 other IRS employees;

Whereas, on June 23, 2014, it was reported that Commissioner of Internal Revenue John Koskinen has contributed approximately $100,000 to Democratic candidates and organizations, including $7,300 to President Obama;

Whereas, on June 24, 2014, it was reported that the IRS agreed to pay $50,000 in damages to one of the conservative groups, the National Organization for Marriage, as a result of the unlawful release of confidential information to a political rival of that group;

Whereas, on June 25, 2014, according to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, Lois Lerner sought to have Senator Chuck Grassley, a sitting United States Senator and ranking Republican member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, referred for IRS examination; and

Whereas section 600.1 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, promulgated under section 515 of title 28, United States Code, requires the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel or prosecutor when it is determined that—

(1) a criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted;

(2) investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorney's Office or litigating Division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances; and

(3) under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel or prosecutor to assume responsibility for the matter: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the statements and actions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department of Justice, and the administration of President Barack Obama in connection with the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS have served to undermine the investigation by the Department of Justice;

(2) the efforts of the administration to undermine the investigation by the Department of Justice, and the appointment of Barbara Bosserman, who has donated almost $7,000 to President Obama and the Democratic National Committee, to a lead investigative role, have created a conflict of interest that warrants removal of the investigation from the normal processes of the Department of Justice;

(3) further investigation of the matter is warranted due to the apparent criminal activity by Lois Lerner, former Director of the Exempt Organizations Division within the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the IRS, and the ongoing disclosure of internal communications showing potentially unlawful conduct by executive branch personnel;

(4) appointment of a special counsel or prosecutor would be in the public interest, given the conflict of interest for the Department of Justice and the strong public interest in ensuring that public officials who inappropriately target individuals for exercising their right to free expression are held accountable; and

(5) Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. should appoint a special counsel or prosecutor, with meaningful independence, to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit advocacy groups by the IRS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY''

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WALSH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 488

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as ''cowboys'', helped to establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment, is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2014, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce a resolution today to designate Saturday, July 26, 2014 as National Day of the American Cowboy.

My late colleague, Senator Craig Thomas, began the tradition of honoring the men and women known as cowboys 10 years ago when he introduced the first resolution to designate the fourth Saturday of July as National Day of the American Cowboy. I am proud to carry on Senator Thomas's tradition.

The national day celebrates the history of cowboys in America and recognizes the important work today's cowboys are doing in the United States. The cowboy spirit is about honesty, integrity, courage, and patriotism, and cowboys are models of strong character, sound family values, and good common sense.

Cowboys were some of the first men and women to settle in the American West, and they continue to make important contributions to our economy, Western culture, and my home State of Wyoming today. This year's resolution designates July 26, 2014, as the National Day of the American Cowboy. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important role cowboys play in our country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 489—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF ''GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 489

Whereas, according to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations database (commonly known as the ''POSSUM'' database), more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure;

Whereas health conditions that cause growth failure may affect the overall health of a child;

Whereas short stature may be a symptom of a serious underlying health condition;

Whereas children with growth failure are often undiagnosed;

Whereas, according to the MAGIC Foundation for children's growth, 48 percent of children in the United States who were evaluated for the 2 most common causes of growth failure were undiagnosed with growth failure;

Whereas the longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care;

Whereas early detection and a diagnosis of growth failure are crucial to ensure a healthy future for a child with growth failure;

Whereas raising public awareness of, and educating the public about, growth failure is a vital public service;

Whereas providing resources for identification of growth failure will allow for early detection; and

Whereas the MAGIC Foundation for children's growth has designated the third week of September as ''Growth Awareness Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the third week of September 2014 as ''Growth Awareness Week''; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''Growth Awareness Week''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 490—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE MAY-LEWES FERRY

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas, on September 20, 1962, the 87th Congress granted consent to the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey to enter into a compact to establish the Delaware River and Bay Authority (referred to in this preamble as the ''DRBA'') for the development of the area in both States bordering the Delaware River and Bay;

Whereas the pressures of increasing amounts of traffic, a growing population, and greater industrialization indicated the need for closer cooperation between the 2 States in order to advance their economic development and to improve crossings and transportation between the 2 States;

Whereas the Delaware River and Bay Authority was organized on February 6, 1963, to construct and operate transportation crossings between the 2 States and its first line of business was to update earlier feasibility studies for a ferry service connecting southern New Jersey and southern Delaware;

Whereas DRBA Commissioners immediately resolved, in April 1963, to establish the Cape May-Lewes Ferry at the earliest possible date following the release of the updated feasibility study;

Whereas, on July 1, 1964, the very first vessel departed the Lewes, Delaware terminal at 6:47 a.m., carrying 8 vehicles and 15 passengers;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has served as a major transportation link in the crowded Northeast corridor, connecting north-south traffic from Boston and New York City to Washington, D.C. and Florida;

Whereas the 85 minute, 17 mile journey across the Delaware Bay offers an efficient way to cut miles off a road trip;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has evolved over the past 50 years from strictly a mode of transportation to one that includes tourism and recreational opportunities;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry offers foot passenger shuttle service to destinations in Delaware and New Jersey for a variety of commercial and recreational activities on the other side of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas both bird watchers and bicyclists use the Cape May-Lewes Ferry to access the various and numerous trails on both sides of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminals will host festivals to celebrate the highly anticipated 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry on June 28, 2014, in Cape May and June 29, 2014, in Lewes;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry employs more than 130 full-time personnel and an additional 330 seasonal workers, adding significantly to the economies on both sides of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry operates year-round and has carried more than 43 million passengers and 14 million vehicles since the inception of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry in 1964;

Whereas the DRBA continues to invest its resources to improve the services and infrastructure of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, including a renovated ferry fleet and new passenger terminal facilities; and

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry remains an important transportation link, as a waterway continuation of United States Route 9 between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Cape MayLewes Ferry, connecting the communities of Lewes, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey;

(2) celebrates the history of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry as an important transportation and tourism link between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey;

(3) honors the ongoing role that the Cape May-Lewes Ferry plays in bringing people together through interstate commerce, tourism, and recreation all along the eastern seaboard; and

(4) recognizes the positive contributions that the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has on the development and growth of the Twin Capes region of Cape Henlopen, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey.

SENATE RESOLUTION 491—CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES KINGS ON WINNING THE 2014 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 491

Whereas, on June 13, 2014, the Los Angeles Kings (referred to in this preamble as the ''Kings'') defeated the New York Rangers by a score of 3 to 2 in game 5 to win the 2014 Stanley Cup and be crowned champions of the National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NHL'');

Whereas defenseman Alex Martinez scored the Stanley Cup winning goal 14 minutes and 43 seconds into double overtime in game 5;

Whereas the Kings are the first team to win the Stanley Cup twice in 3 seasons since the Detroit Red Wings consecutively won the Stanley Cup in the 1997 and 1998 seasons;

Whereas the Kings became the first team in NHL history to win 3 series in the seventh game on the road during the postseason;

Whereas the Kings have played 64 playoff games since 2012, the most in a 3 year span in NHL history;

Whereas the Kings allowed only 168 goals during the regular 2013-2014 season, the fewest of any NHL team, thus earning goaltender Jonathan Quick the William M. Jennings trophy;

Whereas the Kings also survived 7 playoff games in which they could have been eliminated but instead rallied from 2 goal deficits 4 times, including the first 2 games of the Stanley Cup Finals against the New York Rangers;

Whereas all players on the 2013-2014 Kings roster should be congratulated, including Playoff Most Valuable Player Justin Williams and Team Captain Dustin Brown, as well as, Jeff Carter, Kyle Clifford, Drew Doughty, Marian Gaborik, Matt Greene, Martin Jones, Dwight King, Anze Kopitar, Trevor Lewis, Alec Martinez, Brayden McNabb, Willie Mitchell, Jake Muzzin, Jordan Nolan, Tanner Pearson, Jonathan Quick, Robyn Regehr, Mike Richards, Jarret Stoll, Tyler Toffoli, and Slava Voynov; and

Whereas Team Owners Philip Anschutz and Edward Roski, General Manager Dean Lombardi, and Head Coach Darryl Sutter assembled the powerful team that comprises the 2014 Los Angeles Kings and led the team through a strong season that culminated in the winning of the Stanley Cup Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Los Angeles Kings on winning the 2014 Stanley Cup Championship; and

(2) commends Los Angeles Kings fans in not only California, but all across the United States for cheering the team to victory.

SENATE RESOLUTION 492—CONGRATULATING ''A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION'' ON ITS 40 YEARS OF ENGAGING, HUMOROUS, AND QUALITY RADIO PROGRAMMING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 492

Whereas, for 40 years, ''A Prairie Home Companion'' has brought listeners from around the country to the fantastic town of Lake Wobegon, Minnesota;

Whereas, in 2014, ''A Prairie Home Companion'' is a 2 hour radio variety program performed live that airs on Saturday afternoons ;

Whereas over 600 radio stations carry ''A Prairie Home Companion'' to 4,000,000 listeners each week;

Whereas ''A Prairie Home Companion'' was created by and is hosted by a Grammy Award winner who received the award in 1998 for ''Lake Wobegon Days'';

Whereas 12 people were in the audience for the first broadcast of ''A Prairie Home Companion'' on July 6, 1974, at the Janet Wallace Auditorium at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota;

Whereas, in 2014, ''A Prairie Home Companion'' is broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater in Saint Paul, Minnesota, a historic building that is over 100 years old and was named after United States citizen and author F. Scott Fitzgerald;

Whereas ''A Prairie Home Companion'' has won a Peabody Award;

Whereas ''A Prairie Home Companion'' has broadcast from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Iceland, and nearly every State in the United States;

Whereas ''A Prairie Home Companion'' inspired a movie by the same name, which itself won 4 international awards; and

Whereas in Lake Wobegon all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the cast and crew of ''A Prairie Home Companion'' for 40 years of engaging, humorous, and quality radio programming; and

(B) Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media for bringing ''A Prairie Home Companion'' into the homes of millions for 40 years; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the creator and host of ''A Prairie Home Companion''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—DESIGNATING JULY 11, 2014, AS ''COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY'' AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 493

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of individual expression;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the United States and supports wholeheartedly all activities involved in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;

Whereas the collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;

Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of the United States by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;

Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and

Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 11, 2014, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'';

(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in events and commemorations of Collector Car Appreciation Day that create opportunities for collector car owners to educate young people about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States, including through the collection and restoration of collector cars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 494

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was born in Tennessee in 1925, graduated from the University of Tennessee Law College in 1949, and was admitted to the Tennessee bar after which he commenced practice in his beloved state;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. served in the United States Navy during World War II from 1943–1946;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was first elected to the United States Senate in 1966 and served three terms as a Senator from the State of Tennessee;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. served the Senate as the Republican Leader from 1977–1981 and as the Majority Leader from 1981–1985;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on March 26, 1984;

Whereas following his service as Senator, Howard H. Baker, Jr. continued to serve his country as chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan from 1987–1988 and as United States Ambassador to Japan from 2001–2005;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was known for his commitment to civility in public life, admonishing his fellow citizens to accord ''a decent respect for differing points of view'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr., former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT WARREN WEINSTEIN SHOULD BE RETURNED HOME TO HIS FAMILY

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas Warren Weinstein was abducted in Pakistan in 2011 and is currently being held captive by al Qaeda;

Whereas Warren Weinstein is a former official of the Peace Corps and the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas Warren Weinstein is widely recognized as a scholar and humanitarian who has spent his career working to improve the lives of men, women, and children around the world; and

Whereas video released of Warren Weinstein by his captors confirms that he is in poor health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense

of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) use all of the lawful tools at its disposal to bring Warren Weinstein home to his family;

(2) make the return of all United States citizens held captive abroad, regardless of their different circumstances, a top priority; and

(3) keep Congress apprised of actions to achieve these goals as new information is available, or quarterly if no new information is available.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3388. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3389. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3390. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3391. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3392. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3393. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3394. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3395. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3396. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3397. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3398. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3399. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3400. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3401. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3402. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3403. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3404. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3405. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3406. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3407. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3408. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3409. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3410. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3411. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3412. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3413. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3414. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3415. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3416. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3417. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3418. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3419. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3420. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3421. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3422. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3423. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3424. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3425. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3426. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3427. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3428. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3429. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3430. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3431. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3432. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3433. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3434. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3435. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3436. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3437. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3438. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3439. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3440. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3441. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3442. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2076, to

amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

SA 3443. Mr. REID (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3388. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. RESOLUTION OF CONTROVERSIES UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.

(a) ELECTION OF ARBITRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 512) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) WRITTEN CONSENT REQUIRED FOR ARBITRATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a contract with a servicemember, or a servicemember and the servicemember's spouse jointly, provides for the use of arbitration to resolve a controversy subject to a provision of this Act and arising out of or relating to such contract, arbitration may be used to settle such controversy only if, after such controversy arises, all parties to such controversy consent in writing to use arbitration to settle such controversy.''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (d) of such section, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into, amended, altered, modified, renewed, or extended after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) LIMITATION ON WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 107(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 517(a)) is amended—

(A) in the second sentence, by inserting ''and if it is made after a specific dispute has arisen and the dispute is identified in the waiver'' after ''to which it applies''; and

(B) in the third sentence, by inserting ''and if it is made after a specific dispute has arisen and the dispute is identified in the waiver'' after ''period of military service''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to waivers made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PRESERVATION OF RIGHT TO BRING CLASS ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 802(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 597a(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) be a representative party on behalf of members of a class or be a member of a class, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, notwithstanding any previous agreement to the contrary.''.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall not be construed to imply that a person aggrieved by a violation of such Act did not have a right to bring a civil action as a representative party on behalf of members of a class or be a member of a class in a civil action before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3389. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. ROLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER MILITARY LENDING ACT.

(a) ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 987 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States against any person who—

''(i) engages in a pattern or practice of violating this section; or

''(ii) engages in a violation of this section that raises an issue of general public importance.

''(B) RELIEF.—In a civil action commenced under subparagraph (A), the court—

''(i) may grant any appropriate equitable or declaratory relief with respect to the violation of this section;

''(ii) may award all other appropriate relief, including monetary damages, to any person aggrieved by the violation; and

''(iii) may, to vindicate the public interest, assess a civil penalty—

''(I) in an amount not exceeding $110,000 for a first violation; and

''(II) in an amount not exceeding $220,000 for any subsequent violation.

''(C) INTERVENTION.—Upon timely application, a person aggrieved by a violation of this section with respect to which the civil action is commenced may intervene in such action, and may obtain such appropriate relief as the person could obtain in a civil action under paragraph (5) with respect to that violation, along with costs and a reasonable attorney fee.

''(D) ISSUANCE AND SERVICE OF CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE DEMANDS.—Whenever the Attorney General, or a designee, has reason to believe that any person may be in possession, custody, or control of any documentary material relevant to an investigation under this section, the Attorney General, or a designee, may, before commencing a civil action under subparagraph (A), issue in writing and cause to be served upon such person, a civil investigative demand requiring—

''(i) the production of such documentary material for inspection and copying;

''(ii) that the custodian of such documentary material answer in writing written questions with respect to such documentary material; or

''(iii) the production of any combination of such documentary material or answers.

''(E) RELATIONSHIP TO FALSE CLAIMS ACT.—The statutory provisions governing the authority to issue, use, and enforce civil investigative demands under section 3733 of title 31 (known as the 'False Claims Act') shall govern the authority to issue, use, and enforce civil investigative demands under subparagraph (D), except that—

''(i) any reference in that section to false claims law investigators or investigations shall be applied for purposes of subparagraph (D) as referring to investigators or investigations under this section;

''(ii) any reference in that section to interrogatories shall be applied for purposes of subparagraph (D) as referring to written questions, and answers to such need not be under oath;

''(iii) the statutory definitions for purposes of that section relating to 'false claims law' shall not apply; and

''(iv) provisions of that section relating to qui tam relators shall not apply.''.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN PRESCRIPTION OF REGULATIONS.—Subsection (h)(3) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) The Department of Justice.''.

SA 3390. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Matters Relating to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

SEC. 1091. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES AFTER ASSIGNMENT OR RELOCATION TO QUARTERS OF UNITED STATES OR HOUSING FACILITY UNDER JURISDICTION OF UNIFORMED SERVICE.

(a) TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 305 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 535) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

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

''(C) in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such subsection, the date the lessee is assigned to or otherwise relocates to quarters or a housing facility as described in such subparagraph.''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

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

''(C) the lease is executed by or on behalf of a person who thereafter and during the term of the lease is assigned to or otherwise relocates to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code), including housing provided under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.''.

(2) MANNER OF TERMINATION.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting ''in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (A) or (B) of such subsection,'' before ''by delivery''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

''(B) in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such subsection, by delivery by the lessee of written notice of such termination, and a letter from the servicemember's commanding officer indicating that the servicemember has been assigned to or is otherwise relocating to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code), to the lessor (or the lessor's grantee), or to the lessor's agent (or the agent's grantee); and''.

(b) DEFINITION OF MILITARY ORDERS AND CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR PURPOSES OF ACT.—

(1) TRANSFER OF DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is further amended by transferring paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 305(i) (50 U.S.C. App. 535(i)) to the end of section 101 (50 U.S.C. App. 511) and redesignating such paragraphs, as so transferred, as paragraphs (10) and (11).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is further amended—

(A) in section 305 (50 U.S.C. App. 535), as amended by paragraph (1), by striking subsection (i); and

(B) in section 705 (50 U.S.C. App. 595), by striking ''or naval'' both places it appears.

SEC. 1092. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RESPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 531 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 (50 U.S.C. App. 533) the following new section:

''SEC. 303A. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RESPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), with respect to a servicemember who dies while in military service and who has a surviving spouse who is the servicemember's successor in interest to property covered under section 303(a), section 303 shall apply to the surviving spouse with respect to that property during the one-year period beginning on the date of such death in the same manner as if the servicemember had not died.

''(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be covered under this section with respect to property, a surviving spouse shall submit written notice that such surviving spouse is so covered to the mortgagee, trustee, or other creditor of the mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage with which the property is secured.

''(2) TIME.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be provided with respect to a surviving spouse anytime during the one-year period beginning on the date of death of the servicemember with respect to whom the surviving spouse is to receive coverage under this section.

''(3) ADDRESS.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) with respect to property shall be provided via e-mail, facsimile, standard post, or express mail to facsimile numbers and addresses, as the case may be, designated by the servicer of the mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage with which the property is secured.

''(4) MANNER.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be provided in writing by using a form designed under paragraph (5) or submitting a copy of a Department of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs document evidencing the military service-related death of a spouse while in military service.

''(5) OFFICIAL FORMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall design and distribute an official Department of Defense form that can be used by an individual to give notice under paragraph (1).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 303A of such Act, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to deaths that occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

''Sec. 303A. Protection of surviving spouse with respect to mortgage foreclosure.''.

SA 3391. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1087. TRANSNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2014''.

(b) POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL IMPORTATIONS.—Section 1009 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 959) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''It shall'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II or flunitrazepam or a listed chemical intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that such substance or chemical will be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.

''(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a listed chemical—

''(1) intending or knowing that the listed chemical will be used to manufacture a controlled substance; and

''(2) intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States.''.

(c) TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS OR SERVICES.—Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2318(b)(2), by striking ''section 2320(e)'' and inserting ''section 2320(f)''; and

(2) in section 2320—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) traffics in a drug and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such drug,'';

(B) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''counterfeit drug'' and inserting ''drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug''; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) the term 'drug' means a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).''.

SA 3392. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out an antimicrobial stewardship program at medical facilities of the Department of Defense.

(b) COLLECTION AND USE OF DATA.—In carrying out the antimicrobial stewardship program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a consistent manner in which to collect and analyze data on antibiotic usage, health issues related to antibiotic usage (such as Clostridium difficile infections), and antimicrobial resistance trends at medical facilities of the Department in order to evaluate how well the program is improving health care provided to members of the Armed Forces and reducing the inappropriate use of antibiotics at such facilities; and

(2) provide data on antibiotic usage and antimicrobial resistance trends at facilities of the Department to the National Healthcare Safety Network of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(c) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy for carrying out the antimicrobial stewardship program required by subsection (a).

SA 3393. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X of division A, add the following:

SEC. 1087. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION, BADGER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, BARABOO, WISCONSIN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PLANT.—The term ''plant'' means the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

(2) PROPERTY.—The term ''Property'' includes—

(A) the plant;

(B) any land located in Sauk County, Wisconsin, and managed by the Federal Government relating to the plant; and

(C) any structure on the land described in subparagraph (B).

(b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1,553 acres of land located within the boundary of the Property, to be held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

(2) DATE OF TRANSFER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The transfer of all land described in paragraph (1) shall be carried out not later than 1 year after the latter of—

(i) the date on which environmental remediation activities on the land described in that paragraph are finalized; and

(ii) the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) FINALIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of this paragraph, environmental remediation activities on a parcel of land to be transferred under paragraph (1) are considered to be finalized on the date on which the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Wisconsin makes a final case closure and no-action-required determination for that parcel of land.

(3) TRANSFER OF PARCELS.—The Secretary of the Army may transfer the land described in paragraph (1) in parcels.

(4) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall publish in the Federal Register a legal description of the land to be transferred under paragraph (1).

(c) RETENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE ARMY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and notwithstanding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Property to the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of the Army shall retain sole Federal responsibility and liability to fund and implement actions necessary for compliance with all environmental remediation activities required to support the land reuse identified in the final case closure and no-action-required determination of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Wisconsin for any transferred parcel of the Property.

(2) LIMITATION.—The responsibility and liability of the Secretary of the Army described in paragraph (1) is limited to the remediation of environmental contamination caused by the activities of the Department of Defense that occurred before the date on which administrative jurisdiction over the land is transferred under this section.

SA 3394. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2842. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC LAND FOR NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION, CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2971(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 1044) is amended—

(1) by striking ''subsection (a) is the Federal land'' and inserting the following: ''subsection (a) is—

''(1) the Federal land''; and

(2) by striking ''section 2912.'' and inserting the following: ''section 2912;

''(2) approximately 7,556 acres of public land described at Public Law 88–46 and commonly known as the Cuddeback Lake Air Force Range; and

''(3) approximately 4,480 acres comprised of all the public lands within: Sections 31 and 32 of Township 29S, Range 43E; Sections 12, 13, 24, and 25 of Township 30S, Range 42E; and Section 5 and the northern half of Section 6 of Township 31S, Range 43E, Mount Diablo Meridian, in the county of San Bernardino in the State of California, (but excluding the parcel identified as 'AF Fee Simple') as depicted on the map entitled: 'Cuddeback Area of the Golden Valley Proposed Wilderness Additions, June 2014'.''.

(b) EXPIRATIONAL REPEAL.—The Act entitled ''An Act to provide for the withdrawal and reservation for the use of the Department of the Air Force of certain public lands of the United States at Cuddeback Lake Air Force Range, California, for defense purposes'', as approved June 21, 1963 (Public Law 88–46; 77 Stat. 69), is repealed.

SA 3395. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 557. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE INVOLVING RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS CADETS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the feasibility of conducting a study of sexual violence involving cadets in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs during fiscal years 2009 through 2014 in order to determine the extent of sexual violence in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs and the need for reform of such programs in connection with such violence.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and prioritization of the quantitative and qualitative data, including collection and assessment methodologies in compliance with applicable privacy laws, that should be used to assess the extent of sexual violence involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets for each Armed Forces and across the Armed Forces in general, including data on—

(A) alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence by Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets as reported to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials;

(B) alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence by students of institutions of higher education of demographics similar to the demographics of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets as reported to institutions of higher education and law enforcement officials; and

(C) actions officially and unofficially taken by Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials in response to such alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility of the collection and analysis of the data provided for in paragraph (1), including the methods and resources that would be necessary to collect, for sample sizes of sufficient size as to provide significant evidence for determining the extent, if any, of sexual violence involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets.

(3) A description of Reserve Officers' Training Corps classroom information materials, course materials, and lesson plans related to education and training for prevention of sexual violence, and the process for developing such materials and lesson plans.

(4) A description of the processes of communication among Reserve Officers' Training Corps program officials, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials about alleged and proven sexual violence incidents involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets.

(5) A description of the process to review the records of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets, including disciplinary records, are evaluated prior to commissioning.

(6) Such other matters and recommendations with respect to the study required by subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3396. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 738, in the table relating to Other Procurement, Army, insert after the item relating to Joint Light Tactical Vehicle an item relating to Family Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), with a FY 2015 Request amount of ''0'' and a Senate Authorized amount of ''50,000''.

On page 738, in the table relating to Other Procurement, Army, insert after the item relating to Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (FHTV) an item relating to Additional HEMTT ESP Vehicles, with a FY 2015 Request amount of ''0'' and a Senate Authorized amount of ''50,000''.

SA 3397. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION

SEC. 301. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) healthy populations of fish depend on the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish habitats in the United States;

(2) fish habitats (including wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal and marine habitats) perform numerous valuable environmental functions that sustain environmental, social, and cultural values, including recycling nutrients, purifying water, attenuating floods, augmenting and maintaining stream flows, recharging ground water, acting as primary producers in the food chain, and providing essential and significant habitat for plants, fish, wildlife, and other dependent species;

(3) the extensive and diverse fish habitat resources of the United States are of enormous significance to the economy of the United States, providing—

(A) recreation for 60,000,000 anglers;

(B) more than 828,000 jobs and approximately $115,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to recreational fishing; and

(C) approximately 575,000 jobs and an additional $36,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to commercial fishing;

(4) at least 40 percent of all threatened species and endangered species in the United States are directly dependent on fish habitats;

(5) certain fish species are considered to be ecological indicators of fish habitat quality, such that the presence of those species reflects high-quality habitat for fish species;

(6) loss and degradation of fish habitat, riparian habitat, water quality, and water volume caused by activities such as alteration of watercourses, stream blockages, water withdrawals and diversions, erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and destruction or modification of wetlands have—

(A) caused significant declines in fish populations throughout the United States, especially declines in native fish populations; and

(B) resulted in economic losses to the United States;

(7)(A) providing for the conservation and sustainability of fish populations has not been fully realized, despite federally funded fish and wildlife restoration programs and other activities intended to conserve fish habitat; and

(B) conservation and sustainability may be significantly advanced through a renewed commitment and sustained, cooperative efforts that are complementary to existing fish and wildlife restoration programs and clean water programs;

(8) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan provides a framework for maintaining and restoring fish habitats to perpetuate populations of fish species;

(9) the United States can achieve significant progress toward providing fish habitats for the conservation and restoration of fish species through a voluntary, nonregulatory incentive program that is based on technical and financial assistance provided by the Federal Government;

(10) the creation of partnerships between local citizens, Indian tribes, Alaska Native organizations, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and Federal, State, and tribal agencies is critical to the success of activities to restore fish habitats;

(11) the Federal Government has numerous land and water management agencies that are critical to the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, including—

(A) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the National Park Service;

(D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(F) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(G) the Forest Service;

(H) the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(I) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(12) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Marine Fisheries Service each play a vital role in—

(A) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the fish communities and fish habitats in the United States; and

(B) the development, operation, and long-term success of fish habitat partnerships and project implementation;

(13) the United States Geological Survey, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service each play a vital role in scientific evaluation, data collection, and mapping for fishery resources in the United States;

(14) the State and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies play a vital role in—

(A) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the fish communities and fish habitats in their respective States and territories; and

(B) the development, operation, and long-term success of fish habitat partnerships and project implementation; and

(15) many of the programs for conservation on private farmland, ranchland, and forestland that are carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State and Private Forestry programs of the Forest Service, are able to significantly contribute to the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through the engagement of private landowners.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties consistent with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan—

(1) to promote intact and healthy fish habitats;

(2) to improve the quality and quantity of fish habitats and overall health of fish species;

(3) to increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species;

(4) to improve fish habitats in a manner that leads to improvement of the annual economic output from recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing;

(5) to enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation;

(6) to coordinate and facilitate activities carried out by Federal departments and agencies under the leadership of—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) the Director of the United States Geological Survey; and

(7) to achieve other purposes in accordance with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Assistant Administrator'' means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 303(a)(1).

(4) CONSERVATION; CONSERVE; MANAGE; MANAGEMENT.—The terms ''conservation'', ''conserve'', ''manage'', and ''management'' mean to maintain, sustain, and, where practicable, restore and enhance, using methods and procedures associated with modern scientific resource programs (including protection, research, census, law enforcement, habitat management, propagation, live trapping and transplantation, and the regulated harvesting of fish)—

(A) a healthy population of fish;

(B) a habitat required to sustain fish and fish populations; or

(C) a habitat required to sustain fish productivity.

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(6) FISH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''fish'' means any freshwater, diadromous, estuarine, or marine finfish or shellfish.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''fish'' includes the egg, spawn, spat, larval, and other juvenile stages of an organism described in subparagraph (A).

(7) FISH AND WILDLIFE-DEPENDENT RECREATION.—The term ''fish and wildlife-dependent recreation'' means a use involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or conservation education and interpretation.

(8) FISH HABITAT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''fish habitat'' means an area on which fish depend to carry out the life processes of the fish, including an area used by the fish for spawning, incubation, nursery, rearing, growth to maturity, food supply, or migration.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''fish habitat'' may include—

(i) an area immediately adjacent to an aquatic environment, if the immediately adjacent area—

(I) contributes to the quality and quantity of water sources; or

(II) provides public access for the use of fishery resources; and

(ii) an area inhabited by saltwater and brackish fish, including an offshore artificial marine reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

(9) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''fish habitat conservation project'' means a project that—

(i) is submitted to the Board by a Partnership and approved by the Secretary under section 305; and

(ii) provides for the conservation or management of a fish habitat.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''fish habitat conservation project'' includes—

(i) the provision of technical assistance to a State, Indian tribe, or local community by the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program or any other agency to facilitate the development of strategies and priorities for the conservation of fish habitats; or

(ii) the voluntary obtaining of a real property interest in land or water, by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, including water rights, in accordance with terms and conditions that ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of—

(I) the land or water; and

(II) the fish dependent on the land or water.

(10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(11) NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN.—The term ''National Fish Habitat Action Plan'' means the National Fish Habitat Action Plan dated April 24, 2006, and any subsequent revisions or amendments to that plan.

(12) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''Partnership'' means an entity designated by the Board as a Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership pursuant to section 304(a).

(13) REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—The term ''real property interest'' means an ownership interest in—

(A) land;

(B) water (including water rights); or

(C) a building or object that is permanently affixed to land.

(14) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(15) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) each of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) the Virgin Islands; and

(F) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(16) STATE AGENCY.—The term ''State agency'' means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State;

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State; or

(C) the fish and wildlife agency of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) FISH HABITAT BOARD.—There is established a board, to be known as the ''National Fish Habitat Board'', whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to approve Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of 28 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Director;

(B) 1 shall be the Assistant Administrator;

(C) 1 shall be the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(D) 1 shall be the Chief of the Forest Service;

(E) 1 shall be the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(F) 1 shall be the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(G) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation appointed pursuant to section 3(g)(2)(B) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(g)(2)(B));

(H) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(I) 1 shall be a representative of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

(J) 1 shall be a representative of the American Fisheries Society;

(K) 2 shall be representatives of Indian tribes, of whom—

(i) 1 shall represent Indian tribes from the State of Alaska; and

(ii) 1 shall represent Indian tribes from the other States;

(L) 1 shall be a representative of the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852);

(M) 1 shall be a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—

(i) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(ii) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(iii) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(N) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council; and

(O) 10 shall be representatives selected from each of the following groups:

(i) The recreational sportfishing industry.

(ii) The commercial fishing industry.

(iii) Marine recreational anglers.

(iv) Freshwater recreational anglers.

(v) Terrestrial resource conservation organizations.

(vi) Aquatic resource conservation organizations.

(vii) The livestock and poultry production industry.

(viii) The land development industry.

(ix) The row crop industry.

(x) Natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction.

(3) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the board established by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan shall appoint the initial members of the Board described in subparagraphs (H), (I), (J), (L), (M), (N), and (O) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the board established by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan a recommendation of not less than 4 tribal representatives, from which that board shall appoint 2 representatives pursuant to subparagraph (K) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) TRANSITIONAL TERMS.—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(O) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) 3 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraphs (H), (I), (J), (L), (M), (N), and (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (K) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not less than 4 tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall elect a member of the Board to serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of ⅔ of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 304; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 304. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—The Board may approve and designate Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to coordinate the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan at a regional level;

(2) to identify strategic priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to recommend to the Board fish habitat conservation projects that address a strategic priority of the Board; and

(4) to develop and carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An entity seeking to be designated as a Partnership shall submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require.

(d) APPROVAL.—The Board may approve an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include Federal, State, or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(2) is organized to promote the health of important fish habitats and distinct geographical areas, important fish species, or system types, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, and estuaries;

(3) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decisionmaking;

(4) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(5) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decisionmaking by the applicant;

(6) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address the decline in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms in accordance with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan; and

(7) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

SEC. 305. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a description, including estimated costs, of each fish habitat conservation project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title, in order of priority, for the following fiscal year.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project to be recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b)—

(1) based on a recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in carrying out the fish habitat conservation project; and

(2) after taking into consideration—

(A) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project fulfills a purpose of this title or a goal of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;

(B) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) the availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e);

(D) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(i) increases recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(ii) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities;

(iii) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(iv) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by the States as species in greatest need of conservation;

(v) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), other relevant Federal law, and State wildlife action plans; and

(vi) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats such that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt; and

(E) the substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS.—

(A) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity shall be eligible to receive funds under this title for the acquisition of real property.

(ii) RESTRICTION.—No fish habitat conservation project that will result in the acquisition by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, in whole or in part, of any real property interest may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the project meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity unless—

(I) the Secretary determines that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is obligated to undertake the management of the real property being acquired in accordance with the purposes of this title; and

(II) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property.

(ii) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—Any real property interest acquired by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project shall be subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary providing for the long-term conservation and management of the fish habitat and the fish and wildlife dependent on that habitat.

(iii) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any acquisition of fee title to real property by a State, local government, or non-Federal entity pursuant to this title shall, where applicable and consistent with State laws and regulations, provide public access to that real property for compatible fish and wildlife-dependent recreation.

(II) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Public access to real property described in subclause (I) shall be closed only for purposes of protecting public safety, the property, or habitat.

(iv) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any real property interest acquired by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity under this title shall be approved by the applicable State agency in the State in which the fish habitat conservation project is carried out.

(II) ADMINISTRATION.—The Board shall not recommend, and the Secretary shall not provide any funding under this title for, the acquisition of any real property interest described in subclause (I) that has not been approved by the applicable State agency.

(v) VIOLATION.—If the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity violates any term or condition established by the Secretary under clause (ii), the Secretary may require the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to refund all or part of any payments received under this title, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND OR WATER.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Federal funds may be used for payment of 100 percent of the costs of a fish habitat conservation project located on Federal land or water.

(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from a Federal grant program; but

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian tribe pursuant to this title may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(f) APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendations of the Board for fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), subject to the limitations under subsection (d), and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c)—

(A) the Secretary shall approve, reject, or reorder the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board that is not within a marine or estuarine habitat; and

(B) the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly approve, reject, or reorder the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board that is within a marine or estuarine habitat.

(2) FUNDING.—If a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1) is approved by the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, as applicable, shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—If the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under subsection (b) is rejected or reordered by the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, shall, not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendations, provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, as applicable, detailing the reasons why the Secretary or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly rejected or reordered the priority of the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 306. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a program, to be known as the ''National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program'', within the Division of Fish and Aquatic Conservation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program shall—

(1) provide funding for the operational needs of the Partnerships, including funding for activities such as planning, project development and implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and outreach;

(2) provide funding to support the detail of State and tribal fish and wildlife staff to the Program;

(3) facilitate the cooperative development and approval of Partnerships;

(4) assist the Secretary and the Board in carrying out this title;

(5) assist the Secretary in carrying out the requirements of sections 307 and 309;

(6) facilitate communication, cohesiveness, and efficient operations for the benefit of Partnerships and the Board;

(7) facilitate, with assistance from the Director, the Assistant Administrator, and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the consideration of fish habitat conservation projects by the Board;

(8) provide support to the Director regarding the development and implementation of the interagency operational plan under subsection (c);

(9) coordinate technical and scientific reporting as required by section 310;

(10) facilitate the efficient use of resources and activities of Federal departments and agencies to carry out this title in an efficient manner; and

(11) provide support to the Board for national communication and outreach efforts that promote public awareness of fish habitat conservation.

(c) INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the Assistant Administrator and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall develop an interagency operational plan for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs of the Program; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

(d) STAFF AND SUPPORT.—

(1) DEPARTMENTS OF INTERIOR AND COMMERCE.—The Director and the Assistant Administrator shall each provide appropriate staff to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program, subject to the availability of funds under section 313.

(2) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Each State and Indian tribe is encouraged to provide staff to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program.

(3) DETAILEES AND CONTRACTORS.—The National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program may accept staff or other administrative support from other entities—

(A) through interagency details; or

(B) as contractors.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—The staff of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program shall include members with education and experience relating to the principles of fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation.

(e) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Director shall provide to the Board a report describing the activities of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, the Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall provide scientific and technical assistance to the Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—Scientific and technical assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to conduct scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 308. CONSERVATION OF FISH HABITAT ON FEDERAL LAND.

To the extent consistent with the mission and authority of the applicable department or agency, the head of each Federal department and agency may coordinate with the Assistant Administrator and the Director to promote healthy fish populations and fish habitats.

SEC. 309. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 310. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.

(a) REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of—

(A) this title; and

(B) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet (or other suitable measure) of fish habitat that was maintained or improved under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities in the United States during the 2-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan during that 2-year period;

(C) a description of the opportunities for public recreational fishing established under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan during that period; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 305(b);

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 305(f), in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection or reordering of the priority of each fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 305(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 305(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(b) STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the status of fish habitats in the United States.

(c) REVISIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall revise the goals and other elements of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, after consideration of each report required by subsection (b).

SEC. 311. EFFECT OF TITLE.

(a) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of this Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.—In carrying out section 305(d)(2), only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, in accordance with applicable State law, water rights or rights to property pursuant to a fish habitat conservation projected funded under this title.

(c) STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

(1) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest.

(2) MITIGATION.—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) CLEAN WATER ACT.—Nothing in this title affects or alters any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 312. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

SEC. 313. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 305(f), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes.

(2) NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program, and to carry out section 310, an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) REQUIRED TRANSFERS.—The Secretary shall annually transfer to other Federal departments and agencies such percentage of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraph (A) as is required to support participation by those departments and agencies in the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program pursuant to the interagency operational plan under section 306(c).

(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 307—

(A) $500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) $500,000 to the Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) $500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey.

(4) PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for use by the Board, the Director, and the Assistant Administrator for planning and administrative expenses an amount equal to 3 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106–107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) make funds available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) TREATMENT.—A donation accepted under this section—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

(i) used directly by the Secretary; or

(ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SA 3398. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1087. SAVING KIDS FROM DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Saving Kids From Dangerous Drugs Act of 2014''.

(b) OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.—Section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.—

''(1) UNLAWFUL ACT.—Except as authorized under this title, including paragraph (3), it shall be unlawful for any person at least 18 years of age to—

''(A) knowingly or intentionally manufacture or create a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II that is—

''(i) combined with a beverage or candy product;

''(ii) marketed or packaged to appear similar to a beverage or candy product; or

''(iii) modified by flavoring or coloring; and

''(B) know, or have reasonable cause to believe, that the combined, marketed, packaged, or modified controlled substance will be distributed, dispensed, or sold to a person under 18 years of age.

''(2) PENALTIES.—Except as provided in section 418, 419, or 420, any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to—

''(A) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years for a first offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule; and

''(B) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years for a second or subsequent offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any controlled substance that—

''(A) has been approved by the Secretary under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), if the contents, marketing, and packaging of the controlled substance have not been altered from the form approved by the Secretary; or

''(B) has been altered at the direction of a practitioner who is acting for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice.''.

(c) SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review its guidelines and policy statements to ensure that the guidelines provide an appropriate additional penalty increase to the sentence otherwise applicable in Part D of the Guidelines Manual if the defendant was convicted of a violation of section 401(i) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section.

SA 3399. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. INCREASED MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD FOR PURCHASES BY COMBATANT COMMANDS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

(a) INCREASED MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—In the case of any purchase by a combatant command in support of an operation overseas, the micro-purchase threshold for purposes of section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, shall be deemed to be $10,000 rather than the amount otherwise provided for in subsection (a) of such section.

(b) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In applying subsections (d) and (e) of section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, to purchases described in subsection (a), the purchases covered by such subsection (d) or (e) shall be deemed to be purchases not greater than $10,000 rather than the amount otherwise provided for in such subsection (d) or (e).

SA 3400. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. AUTHORITY FOR TAIWAN C–130 FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUAM AND TAIWAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Taiwan C–130 aircraft are authorized to fly between Taiwan and Guam.

SA 3401. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER VESSELS TO TAIWAN.

Notwithstanding subsection (a) of section 7307 of title 10, United States Code, vessels otherwise subject to restrictions under such subsection may be disposed of to Taiwan without regard to such restrictions on or before December 31, 2019.

SA 3402. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1647. PLAN FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION ON CYBER MATTERS.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the continuing education of officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces relating to cyber security and cyber activities of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Requirements for provision of basic cyber threat education for all members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Requirements for postgraduate education, joint professional military education, and strategic war gaming for cyber strategic and operational leadership.

(3) Definitions of military occupational specialties and rating specialties for each military department along with the corresponding level of cyber training, education, qualifications, or certifications required for each specialty.

SA 3403. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. MAKING PERMANENT EXTENDED PERIOD OF PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES RELATING TO MORTGAGES, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, AND EVICTION.

Section 710(d) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–154; 126 Stat. 1208) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (3).

SA 3404. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 854. MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY AIRSPACE.

(a) INFORMATION ON MILITARY AIRSPACE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent possible, work to ensure that publicly available Internet websites or other information sources that enable members of the public to monitor the use by the Department of Defense of new military airspace include sufficient information to allow the public to obtain reasonable information regarding Department use of the airspace.

(2) REASONABLE INFORMATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ''reasonable information'' means, at a minimum—

(A) a schedule of current and future planned uses of new military airspace;

(B) a list of restrictions corresponding to different uses of the airspace, including a clear representation of what specific segments of new military airspace are scheduled to be used on specific dates; and

(C) contact information and procedures for interested parties to inquire about scheduled uses of new military airspace, receive general information about new military airspace, and request, including by electronic means, modifications to military use related to economic activity or other priorities.

(3) CREATION OF DOD MANAGED INTERNET WEBSITE APPLICATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the Department from creating its own Internet website application to improve communication with the general public over the use of new military airspace.

(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Defense shall prioritize reaching memoranda of understanding with private enterprises that utilize new military airspace as part of their regular business model, with the goal of minimizing disruption to affected enterprises while also protecting the national security needs of the Department.

(c) PERIODIC REVIEW OF MILITARY AIRSPACE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Every five years after the creation of new military airspace or the changing of current military airspace, the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of the airspace to determine if the amount of military airspace is still in the interests of national security.

(2) SCOPE.—The review conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an examination of what units use the space for operations or training;

(B) an assessment of how the number and type of those units has changed in the previous five years; and

(C) a review of changes in military installations that use the airspace and how those changes impact the use of the airspace.

(d) NEW MILITARY AIRSPACE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''new military airspace'' means—

(1) military airspace designated after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) military airspace the boundaries of which are modified after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3405. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. STUDY ON REDUCING STIGMA AND IMPROVING TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly conduct a study on reducing the stigma and improving the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with individuals with relevant experience relating to post-traumatic stress disorder, the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, and the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder on members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, including the following:

(A) Representatives of military service organizations.

(B) Representatives of veterans service organizations.

(C) Health professionals with experience in treating members of the Armed Forces and veterans with mental illness, including those health professionals who work for the Federal Government and those who do not.

(3) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assess the following:

(A) The feasibility and advisability of strategies to improve the treatment of the full spectrum of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(B) The feasibility and advisability of strategies to diminish the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(C) The impact of the term ''disorder'' on the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including the impact of dropping the term ''disorder'', when medically appropriate, when referring to post-traumatic stress.

(D) Whether using the term ''disorder'' is the most accurate way to describe post-traumatic stress disorder in instances in which members of the Armed Forces and veterans have experienced traumatic events but have not been formally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

(E) Whether there is a need to update the next version of the ''VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Post-Traumatic Stress'', published by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(F) Whether there is a need to update information provided to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including information on Internet websites of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, on post-traumatic stress disorder to reduce the stigma and more accurately describe the medical conditions for which members of the Armed Forces and veterans are receiving treatment.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report

on the results of the study required by subsection (a), including recommendations for any actions that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs can take to reduce the stigma and improve the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term ''veterans service organization'' means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3406. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 607, strike line 21 and all that follows through ''Not later than'' on line 24, and insert the following:

SEC. 1625. SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONSIDER GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.—In evaluating any offers submitted to the Department of Defense in response to a solicitation for offers for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program (or any successor to that program), the Secretary of Defense shall consider any situation in which the cost of production or manufacturing operations, including systems and factory engineering, program management, standard integration and testing, launch and range activities, infrastructure, and parts obsolescence mitigation, or certification-related activities, is not fully borne by the offeror for such contract because of government-provided funds.

(b) REPORT ON RELIANCE OF EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM ON FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS.—Not later than

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SA 3407. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORMER AIR FORCE NORWALK DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY POINT, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, to the City of Norwalk, California (in this section referred to as the ''City''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 15 acres at the former Norwalk Defense Fuel Supply Point for public purposes.

(b) APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall affect the applicability to the Department of the Air Force of Federal, State, or local environmental laws and regulations, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(c) PAYMENT OF COST OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall require the City to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation related to the conveyance, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the actual costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance or, if the period of availability for obligations for that appropriation has expired, to the appropriations or fund that is currently available to the Secretary for the same purpose. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Air Force.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Secretary of the Air Force may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3408. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 601.

Strike section 603.

Strike section 702.

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. PROHIBITION ON CHANGES TO MILITARY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS IN FISCAL YEAR 2015 PENDING THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION. .

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Defense is prohibited from making any changes to military compensation and benefits during fiscal year 2015 until after the date of the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission under section 674(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1792).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''benefits'' means provisions of law providing eligibility for benefits, including medical and dental care, cost-sharing for prescription drug copayments under the TRICARE program, educational assistance and related benefits, and commissary and exchange benefits and related benefits and activities.

(2) The term ''compensation'' means provisions of law providing eligibility for and the computation of military compensation, including basic pay, special and incentive pays and allowances, basic allowance for housing, and basic allowance for subsistence.

SA 3409. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 317. REDESIGNATION OF THE PU'U PA LOCAL TRAINING AREA, HAWAII.

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT.—To provide necessary response actions in a fiscally responsible manner that strengthens environmental and cultural protections, the environmental restoration project at the Pu'u Pa Local Training Area, Hawaii, shall be redesignated from the Military Munitions Response Program to the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Funds authorized for the environment restoration project at the Pu'u Pa Local Training Area may be transferred to the Environmental Restoration Account, Formerly Used Defense Sites account in order to carry out the environmental restoration functions of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments. Any funds so transferred shall remain available until expended.

(c) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer made between accounts under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(d) SOURCE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS.—Pursuant to section 2703(c) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary may use funds available in the Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites account of the Department of Defense for environmental restoration projects conducted for or by the Secretary under subsection (a).

(e) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section affects or limits the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et. seq) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

SA 3410. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 582. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section, the appropriate discharge boards—

(1) shall review the discharge characterization of covered members at the request of the covered member; and

(2) if such characterization is any characterization except honorable, may change such characterization to honorable.

(b) CRITERIA.—In changing the discharge characterization of a covered member to honorable under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that such changes are carried out consistently and uniformly across the military departments using the following criteria:

(1) The original discharge must be based on Don't Ask Don't Tell (in this Act referred to as ''DADT'') or a similar policy in place prior to the enactment of DADT.

(2) Such discharge characterization shall be so changed if, with respect to the original discharge, there were no aggravating circumstances, such as misconduct, that would have independently led to a discharge characterization that was any characterization except honorable. For purposes of this paragraph, such aggravating circumstances may not include—

(A) an offense under section 925 of title 10, United States Code (article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), committed by a covered member against a person of the same sex with the consent of such person; or

(B) statements, consensual sexual conduct, or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation or identity, or the disclosure of such statements, conduct, or acts, that were prohibited at the time of discharge but after the date of such discharge became permitted.

(3) When requesting a review, a covered member, or the member's representative, shall be required to provide either—

(A) documents consisting of—

(i) a copy of the DD–214 form of the member;

(ii) a personal affidavit of the circumstances surrounding the discharge; and

(iii) any relevant records pertaining to the discharge; or

(B) an affidavit certifying that the member, or the member's representative, does not have the documents specified in subparagraph (A).

(4) If a covered member provides an affidavit described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3)—

(A) the appropriate discharge board shall make every effort to locate the documents specified in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph within the records of the Department of Defense; and

(B) the absence of such documents may not be considered a reason to deny a change of the discharge characterization under subsection (a)(2).

(c) REQUEST FOR REVIEW.—The appropriate discharge board shall ensure the mechanism by which covered members, or their representative, may request to have the discharge characterization of the covered member reviewed under this section is simple and straightforward.

(d) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After a request has been made under subsection (c), the appropriate discharge board shall review all relevant laws, records of oral testimony previously taken, service records, or any other relevant information regarding the discharge characterization of the covered member.

(2) ADDITIONAL MATERIALS.—If additional materials are necessary for the review, the appropriate discharge board—

(A) may request additional information from the covered member or the member's representative, in writing, and specifically detailing what is being requested; and

(B) shall be responsible for obtaining a copy of the necessary files of the covered member from the member, or when applicable, from the Department of Defense.

(e) CHANGE OF CHARACTERIZATION.—The appropriate discharge board shall change the discharge characterization of a covered member to honorable if such change is determined to be appropriate after a review is conducted under subsection (d) pursuant to the criteria under subsection (b). A covered member, or the member's representative, may appeal a decision by the appropriate discharge board to not change the discharge characterization by using the regular appeals process of the board.

(f) CHANGE OF RECORDS.—For each covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e), or for each covered member who was honorably discharged but whose DD–214 form reflects the sexual orientation of the member, the Secretary of Defense shall reissue to the member or the member's representative a revised DD–214 form that reflects the following:

(1) For each covered member discharged, the Separation Code, Reentry Code, Narrative Code, and Separation Authority shall not reflect the sexual orientation of the member and shall be placed under secretarial authority. Any other similar indication of the sexual orientation or reason for discharge shall be removed or changed accordingly to be consistent with this paragraph.

(2) For each covered member whose discharge occurred prior to the creation of general secretarial authority, the sections of the DD–214 form referred to paragraph (1) shall be changed to similarly reflect a universal authority with codes, authorities, and language applicable at the time of discharge.

(g) STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e) shall be treated without regard to the original discharge characterization of the member, including for purposes of—

(A) benefits provided by the Federal Government to an individual by reason of service in the Armed Forces; and

(B) all recognitions and honors that the Secretary of Defense provides to members of the Armed Forces.

(2) REINSTATEMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall reinstate all recognitions and honors of a covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e) that the Secretary withheld because of the original discharge characterization of the member.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a review of the consistency and uniformity of the reviews conducted under this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for a four-year period, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reviews under paragraph (1). Such reports shall include any comments or recommendations for continued actions.

(i) HISTORICAL REVIEW.—The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that oral historians of the department—

(1) review the facts and circumstances surrounding the estimated 100,000 members of the Armed Forces discharged from the Armed Forces between World War II and September 2011 because of the sexual orientation of the member; and

(2) receive oral testimony of individuals who personally experienced discrimination and discharge because of the actual or perceived sexual orientation of the individual so that such testimony may serve as an official record of these discriminatory policies and their impact on American lives.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate discharge board'' means the boards for correction of military records under section 1552 of title 10, United States Code, or the discharge review boards under section 1553 of such title, as the case may be.

(2) The term ''covered member'' means any former member of the Armed Forces who was discharged from the Armed Forces because of the sexual orientation of the member.

(3) The term ''discharge characterization'' means the characterization under which a member of the Armed Forces is discharged or released, including ''dishonorable'', ''general'', ''other than honorable'', and ''honorable''.

(4) The term ''Don't Ask Don't Tell'' means section 654 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect before such section was repealed pursuant to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–321).

(5) The term ''representative'' means the surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of a covered member.

SA 3411. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 317. REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress of the Department of Defense in developing a project plan and milestones for climate change adaption.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) Completion of climate change vulnerability assessments at military installations.

(2) Completion of data analysis and collection through site surveys.

(3) Measures the Department has taken to review and clarify relevant processes and criteria for construction project approval to ensure that climate change adaptation is considered as beneficial to the mission and readiness of the Department and for the protection of infrastructure and facilities.

SA 3412. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Section 4001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

''(a) No citizen shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except consistent with the Constitution and pursuant to an act of Congress that expressly authorizes such detention.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States apprehended in the United States.

''(2) Paragraph (1) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Carl Levin National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

''(3) This section shall not be construed to authorize the detention of a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or any other person who is apprehended in the United States.''.

SA 3413. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1034.

SA 3414. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle E—Matters Relating to the Asia Pacific

SEC. 1271. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC REBALANCE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Asia-Pacific region has nearly a third of the world's population and over one-quarter of global gross domestic product, and its future prosperity and security are intertwined with the United States;

(2) In addition to long-standing historic ties with Asia-Pacific countries, such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand, the United States welcomes its growing partnerships and collaboration with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and with governments across the Pacific Islands;

(3) throughout the Asia-Pacific, a strong defense posture provides the foundation for United States national security as well as for United States diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, and people-to-people engagement in the region;

(4) a regional defense posture must therefore include a balance of traditional and nontraditional military engagement in order to make use of the capabilities and capacities of United States partners and allies in the region with fewer resources;

(5) traditional military engagement is especially important in areas such as nonproliferation, ballistic and cruise missile defense, maritime security assistance, and combined military exercises;

(6) nontraditional defense engagement should include collaboration on combating emerging infectious diseases, responding to humanitarian disasters and extreme weather events, effectively addressing the security challenges posed by human and drug trafficking, civilian educational partnerships and foreign language learning, and joint research endeavors devoted to meeting the region's energy needs;

(7) while the Department of Defense is traditionally the United States Government agency with the resources and capacity to lead engagement throughout the region, whenever and wherever possible it should work closely with interagency partners to accomplish shared foreign policy objectives and should encourage those interagency partners to lead when appropriate in order to better achieve United States objectives in the Asia Pacific;

(8) regionally-focused security studies organizations managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, such as the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies established with the support of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, are critical to building broad, multilateral approaches to regional security concerns; and

(9) to support the rebalance to the Asia Pacific, the Department of Defense is encouraged to—

(A) enhance the use of the National Guard State Partnership Program to broaden and deepen mutually beneficial relationships with partner militaries and facilitate interoperability across a range of issues, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(B) advance shared goals in the area of global health, including through biosurveillance and disease monitoring, as well as collaboration between partner governments and the United States Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease to protect military and civilian interests from all biological threats;

(C) improve resilience to extreme weather and other natural disasters through humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises that build the capacities and capabilities of partners and allies in the Pacific;

(D) reduce the strategic vulnerability of fossil fuel consumption through science and technology agreements that help the Department and partner governments improve energy efficiency of military platforms and conservation at bases, and engineer nonpetroleum alternative fuels that can be dropped into existing military platforms;

(E) utilize to the fullest extent possible the National Security Education Program to continue to build a broader and more qualified pool of United States citizens with critical-need foreign language and cultural competency skills relevant to the Asia-Pacific, and increase collaboration with appropriate interagency partners, such as the Department of State, that sponsor similar language training and other scholarship programs with an Asia-Pacific focus; and

(F) explore additional ways to leverage the highly-effective nontraditional military and civilian academic partnership and capacity-building programs at the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies and further develop the Center's alliances with its Defense Security Cooperation Agency sister organizations, the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, and the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.

SA 3415. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR VETERANS.

Section 330J(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–15(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) furnish coursework and training to veterans to enable such veterans to satisfy emergency medical services personnel certification requirements, as determined by the appropriate State regulatory entity, except that in providing such coursework and training, such entity shall take into account previous medical coursework and training received when such veterans were members of the Armed Forces on active duty.''.

SA 3416. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 120, line 17, insert ''during any period, regardless of the duty status of the individual at the time of the alleged offense,'' after ''sex-related offense''.

SA 3417. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 544 and insert the following:

SEC. 544. ACCESS TO SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1044e of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) DESIGNATION; PURPOSES.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall designate legal counsel (to be known as 'Special Victims' Counsel') for the purpose of providing legal assistance to an individual described in paragraph (2) who is the victim of an alleged sex-related offense, regardless of whether the report of that offense is restricted or unrestricted.

''(2) An individual described in this paragraph is any of the following:

''(A) An individual eligible for military legal assistance under section 1044 of this title.

''(B) An individual who is—

''(i) not covered under subparagraph (A);

''(ii) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces; and

''(iii) a victim of an alleged sex-related offense as described in paragraph (1)—

''(I) during a period in which the individual served on active duty, full-time National Guard duty, or inactive-duty training; or

''(II) during any period, regardless of the duty status of the individual, if the circumstances of the alleged sex-related offense have a nexus to the military service of the victim.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking ''eligible for military legal assistance under section 1044 of this title'' each place it appears and inserting ''described in subsection (a)(2)''.

SA 3418. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D, of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. REPORTING ON USE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report with an inventory of service contractors used by each element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), including, for each such contract, the contractor, a description of the service provided, and the amount obligated or expended.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) may be submitted in classified form, but shall contain an unclassified summary including the total amount expended by each element of the intelligence community on service contracts.

SA 3419. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. REQUIREMENT FOR POLICIES AND STANDARD CHECKLIST IN PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 2330a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (h), (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

''(g) REQUEST FOR SERVICE CONTRACT APPROVAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall—

''(1) establish a standard checklist to be completed before the issuance of a solicitation for any new contract for services or exercising an option under an existing contract for services, including services provided under a contract for goods;

''(2) issue policies implementing the standard checklist;

''(3) draft guidelines regulating the checklist; and

''(4) ensure such policies and checklist are incorporated into the Department of Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.''.

(b) ARMY MODEL.—In implementing section 2330a(g) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall model, to the maximum extent practicable, its policies and checklist on the policies and checklist relating to services contract approval established and in use by the Department of the Army (as set forth in the request for services contract approval form updated as of August 2012, or any successor form).

(c) DEADLINE.—The policies required under such section 2230a(g) shall be issued within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the standard checklist required under such section 2330a(g) for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 within 120 days after the end of each such fiscal year.

SA 3420. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME AND DOMICILIARY CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN A THEATER OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

Section 1710(e)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''period of five years'' and inserting ''period of 10 years''.

SA 3421. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. AUTHORIZATION OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT.

The Air Force may use programs other than, and in addition to, the avionics modernization program for C-130 aircraft to modernize such aircraft.

SA 3422. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 577. DEFERRAL OF PRINCIPAL OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS FOR CERTAIN PERIOD IN CONNECTION WITH RECEIPT OF ORDERS FOR MOBILIZATION FOR WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

(a) FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOANS.—Section 428(b)(1)(M) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(M)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking '', during any period'';

(2) in clause (i), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which'';

(3) in clause (ii), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which'';

(4) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which''; and

(B) in the matter following subclause (II), by striking '' or'' after the semicolon;

(5) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vi);

(6) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii), during the shorter of—

''(I) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii); and

''(II) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

''(v) notwithstanding clause (iv)—

''(I) in the case of any borrower described in such clause whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in clause (iv) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

''(II) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in subclause (I), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled; and''; and

(7) in clause (vi) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking ''not in excess'' and inserting ''during any period not in excess''.

(b) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 455(f)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''during any period'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''not in excess'' and inserting ''during any period not in excess'';

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which''; and

(B) in the matter following clause (ii), by striking '' or'' after the semicolon;

(5) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (F);

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C), during the shorter of—

''(i) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C); and

''(ii) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

''(E) notwithstanding subparagraph (D)—

''(i) in the case of any borrower described in such subparagraph whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in subparagraph (D) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

''(ii) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in clause (i), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled; and''; and

(7) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking ''not in excess'' and inserting ''during any period not in excess''.

(c) PERKINS LOANS.—Section 464(c)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087dd(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''during any period'';

(2) in clause (i), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which'';

(3) in clause (ii), by striking ''not in excess'' and inserting ''during any period not in excess'';

(4) in clause (iii), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which'';

(5) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively;

(6) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii), during the shorter of—

''(I) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii); and

''(II) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

''(v) notwithstanding clause (iv)—

''(I) in the case of any borrower described in such clause whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in clause (iv) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

''(II) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in subclause (I), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled;'';

(7) in clause (vi) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking ''not in excess'' and inserting ''during any period not in excess''; and

(8) in clause (vii) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking ''during which'' and inserting ''during any period during which''.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section shall be construed to authorize any refunding of any repayment of a loan.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to all loans made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

SA 3423. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. APPELLATE PROCEDURES FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SENSITIVE POSITIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 7701 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

''(k)(1) The Board has authority to review on the merits an appeal by an employee or applicant for employment of an action arising from a determination that the employee or applicant for employment is ineligible for a sensitive position if—

''(A) the sensitive position does not require a security clearance or access to classified information; and

''(B) such action is otherwise appealable.

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'sensitive position' means a position designated as a sensitive position under Executive Order 10450 (5 U.S.C. 7311 note), or any successor thereto.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any appeal that is pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3424. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OF CERTAIN RED HORSE UNITS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to transfer from one facility to another any Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) unit based in the continental United States until 60 days after the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A recommended basing alignment for RED HORSE units.

(2) An assessment of the national security benefits and any other benefits of the proposed transfer.

(3) An assessment of the costs of the proposed transfer, including the impact of the proposed transfer on the facility or facilities from which a RED HORSE unit will be transferred.

(4) An analysis of the recommended basing alignment that demonstrates that the recommendation is the most effective and efficient alternative for such basing alignment.

(5) An assessment of how the basing alignment affects the national emergency response mission of RED HORSE Reserve Component units.

SA 3425. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 332. REPORT ON ASSET TRACKING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of creating a specific line item in the Operations and Maintenance, Defense-wide budget to fund asset tracking and in-transit visibility initiatives, including implementation of an item unique identification (IUID) system.

SA 3426. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. CONSOLIDATED DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2014''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN CONSOLIDATED.—Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—The term 'small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans' means a small business concern—

''(A)(i) not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; and

''(ii) the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of a veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran; or

''(B) not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more veterans with service-connected disabilities that are permanent and total who are unable to manage the daily business operations of such concern or, in the case of a publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more such veterans.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES AFTER DEATH OF VETERAN-OWNER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the death of a service-disabled veteran causes a small business concern to be less than 51 percent owned by one or more such veterans, the surviving spouse of such veteran who acquires ownership rights in such small business concern shall, for the period described in subparagraph (B), be treated as if the surviving spouse were that veteran for the purpose of maintaining the status of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

''(B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period referred to in subparagraph (A) is the period beginning on the date on which the service-disabled veteran dies and ending on the earliest of the following dates:

''(i) The date on which the surviving spouse remarries.

''(ii) The date on which the surviving spouse relinquishes an ownership interest in the small business concern.

''(iii) The date that—

''(I) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability, is 10 years after the date of the veteran's death; or

''(II) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling who does not die as a result of a service-connected disability, is three years after the date of the veteran's death.''.

(c) VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN CONSOLIDATED.—Section 8127 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) in subsection (l)(2), by striking ''means'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''has the meaning given that term under section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)).''.

(d) GAO REPORT ON VERIFICATION OF STATUS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) evaluating whether it is practicable for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have Government-wide responsibility for verifying whether a business concern purporting to be a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (as defined under section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)), as amended by this section) qualifies as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; and

(2) making recommendations on the advisability of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs having such Government-wide responsibility.

SA 3427. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1522, strike subsection (b).

SA 3428. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and again not later than 180 days after the cessation of violence in Syria, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of violations of internationally recognized human rights and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the civil war in Syria, including—

(A) an account of the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad;

(B) an account of the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by violent extremist groups and other combatants in the conflict; and

(C) a description of the conventional and unconventional weapons used for such crimes and, where possible, the origins of the weapons.

(2) A description of efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure accountability for violations of internationally recognized human rights and crimes against humanity perpetrated against the people of Syria by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, violent extremist groups, and other combatants involved in the conflict, including—

(A) a description of initiatives that the United States Government has undertaken to train investigators in Syria on how to document, investigate, and develop findings of war crimes, including the number of United States Government or contract personnel currently designated to work full-time on these issues and an identification of the authorities and appropriations being used to support training efforts;

(B) a description of the strategy and implementation efforts to ensure accountability for crimes committed during the Syrian conflict, including efforts to promote the establishment of an ad hoc tribunal to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the civil war in Syria; and

(C) an assessment of the impact of those initiatives.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3429. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 203 of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of H.R. 5666, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106–554 and contained in appendix D of that Act; 114 Stat. 2763A–254; 22 U.S.C. 2452 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting afer paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.—The term 'Fulbright University Vietnam' means an independent, not-for-profit academic institution to be established in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

''(5) TRUST FOR UNIVERSITY INNOVATION IN VIETNAM.—The term 'Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam' means a not-for-profit organization founded in 2012, which is engaged in promoting institutional innovation in Vietnamese higher education.''.

(b) USE OF VIETNAM DEBT REPAYMENT FUND FOR FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.—Section 207(c)(3) of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of H.R. 5666, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106–554 and contained in appendix D of that Act; 114 Stat. 2763A–257; 22 U.S.C. 2452 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.—During each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2018, amounts deposited into the Fund, in excess of the amounts made available to the Foundation under paragraph (1), shall be made available by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the request of the Secretary of State, for grants to the Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam for the purpose of supporting the establishment of Fulbright University Vietnam.''.

(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.

2452 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 211. FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State may award 1 or more grants to the Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam, which shall be used to support the establishment of Fulbright University Vietnam.

''(b) APPLICATION.—In order to receive 1 or more grants pursuant to subsection (a), Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam shall submit an application to the Secretary of State at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(c) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—As a condition of receiving grants under this section, Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam shall ensure that Fulbright University Vietnam—

''(1) achieves standards comparable to those required for accreditation in the United States;

''(2) offers graduate and undergraduate level teaching and research programs in a broad range of fields, including public policy, management, and engineering; and

''(3) establishes a policy of academic freedom and prohibits the censorship of dissenting or critical views.

''(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that summarizes the activities carried out under this section during such fiscal year.''.

SA 3430. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. MAKING PERMANENT SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR AWARDS OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS WHO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR ORIGINAL CLAIMS THAT ARE FULLY-DEVELOPED.

Section 5110(b)(2)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and shall not apply with respect to claims filed after the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of such Act''.

SEC. 1088. PROVISIONAL BENEFITS AWARDED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS PENDING FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period

''(a) PROVISIONAL AWARDS REQUIRED.—For each application for disability compensation that is filed for an individual with the Secretary, that sets forth an original claim that is fully-developed (as determined by the Secretary) as of the date of submittal, and for which the Secretary has not made a decision, beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date on which such application is filed with the Secretary, the Secretary shall award the individual a provisional benefit under this section.

''(b) PROVISIONAL AWARDS ESTABLISHED.—A provisional benefit awarded pursuant to subsection (a) for a claim for disability compensation shall be for such monthly amount as the Secretary shall establish for each classification of disability claimed as the Secretary shall establish.

''(c) RECOVERY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may recover a payment of a provisional benefit awarded under this section for an application for disability compensation only—

''(1) in a case in which the Secretary awards the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary may only recover such provisional benefit by subtracting it from payments made for the disability compensation awarded; or

''(2) in a case in which the Secretary determines not to award the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary determines that the application was the subject of intentional fraud, misrepresentation, or bad faith on behalf of the individual.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5319 the following new item:

''5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period.''.

SA 3431. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Chapter 1611 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 16402. National Guard and Reserves: educational assistance to encourage membership

''(a) AUTHORITY.—Each Secretary of a military department may carry out a program to encourage membership in the reserve components of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary through the provision of educational assistance to individuals who participate in such program in order to develop skills that are critical to such reserve components as determined by such Secretary.

''(b) PARTICIPATION BY INDIVIDUALS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF GRADE 12.—(1) An individual who is more than sixteen years of age may participate in a program under this section before commencing grade 12 in a secondary school with the written consent of the individual's parent or guardian (if the individual has a parent or guardian entitled to the custody and control of the individual).

''(2) An individual who participates in a program under this section pursuant to paragraph (1) may complete entry level and skill training before commencing grade 12 in a secondary school.

''(c) ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out a program under this section, the Secretary of a military department shall—

''(1) establish and maintain a current list of the skills that are, or are anticipated to become, critical to one or more reserve components under the jurisdiction of such Secretary; and

''(2) prescribe academic and other performance standards to be met by individuals participating in the program.

''(d) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—An individual who participates in a program under this section shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary of the military department concerned—

''(1) to enlist in or accept an appointment as an officer in a reserve component of the armed forces;

''(2) to complete entry level and skill training (if enlisting) or entry level training and officer candidate school (if accepting appointment as an officer);

''(3) to pursue on a full-time basis a course of education—

''(A) leading to a bachelor's or associate's degree at an institution of higher education; or

''(B) that—

''(i) is offered by an institution of higher education; and

''(ii) upon completion, will provide the individual with a level of education that is similar to a course of education described in subparagraph (A), as determined pursuant to subsection (c)(2);

''(4) while pursuing a course of education under paragraph (3), to perform such active duty for training during periods between academic terms of the institution of higher education involved as such Secretary shall specify in the agreement; and

''(5) as provided in subsection (i), to serve in the reserve component of the armed forces specified in such agreement for two years for each academic year for which the individual receives educational assistance under this section.

''(e) AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The amount of educational assistance provided under a program under this section to an individual pursuing a course of education described in subsection (d)(3) during an academic year shall be the lesser of—

''(1) the maximum amount of in-State tuition and fees assessed during such academic year for programs of education leading to a bachelor's degree by public institutions of higher education in the State whose National Guard the individual is a member of or where the individual resides, as applicable; or

''(2) the amount of tuition and fees assessed during such academic year for such course of education by the institution of higher education providing such course of education.

''(f) PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary of the military department concerned shall pay educational assistance to individuals participating in programs under this section on a monthly basis.

''(2) The maximum number of months of educational assistance payable to an individual participating in a program under this section may not exceed the aggregate number of months comprising four academic years at the institution or institutions attended by the individual pursuant to the program.

''(g) RESERVE STATUS.—(1) Each individual participating in a program under this section shall, while pursuing a course of education under such program, be the following:

''(A) A member of the inactive National Guard or the Individual Ready Reserve, as applicable, during academic terms of pursuit of such course of education pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

''(B) A member of the National Guard or the Ready Reserve, as applicable, in active

status while performing training during periods between such academic terms pursuant to subsection (d)(4)

''(2) Notwithstanding status under paragraph (1), an individual may not be called or ordered to active duty (other than active duty for training in accordance with subsection (d)(4)) while pursuing a course of education under a program under this section.

''(h) INELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.—(1) An individual who participates in a program under this section is not, while so participating, eligible for educational assistance under any other provision of this title, any other law administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretaries of the military departments, any law administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy), or any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(2) Any service in the armed forces by an individual described in paragraph (1) while participating in a program under this section shall be treated as qualifying the individual for education assistance under provisions of law referred to in that paragraph to the extent provided in such provisions of law.

''(i) COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—The service requirement of an individual pursuant to subsection (d)(5) shall commence as follows:

''(1) When the individual obtains the bachelor's or associate's degree, or completes the course of education described in subsection (d)(3)(B), for which the individual was paid educational assistance under this section.

''(2) If the individual ceases pursuit on a full-time basis of a course of education at an institution of higher education as agreed to pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

''(3) If the individual otherwise fails the obtain a bachelor's or associate's degree, or course of education described in subsection (d)(3)(B), as so agreed to.

''(j) REPAYMENT.—An individual who participates in a program under this section and who fails to complete the equivalent of a single academic year of education pursuant to subsection (d)(3) or complete the period of service or meet the types or conditions of serve for which educational assistance was provided the individual under the program, as specified in the written agreement of the individual under subsection (d), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of title 37.

''(k) FUNDING.—Amounts available to the Secretary of the military department concerned for the payment of recruitment and retention bonuses and special pays shall be available to such Secretary to carry out a program under this section.

''(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'entry level and skill training' means the following:

''(A) In the case of members of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Army Reserve, Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training or One Station Unit Training.

''(B) In the case of members of the Navy Reserve, Recruit Training (or Boot Camp) and Skill Training (or so-called 'A School').

''(C) In the case of members of the Air National Guard of the United States of the Air Force Reserve, Basic Military Training and Technical Training.

''(D) In the case of members of the Marine Corps Reserve, Recruit Training and Marine Corps Training (or School of Infantry Training).

''(2) The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1611 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''16402. National Guard and Reserves: educational assistance to encourage membership.''.

SA 3432. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 810. EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACT SERVICES.

Section 808 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1489), as amended by section 802 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 804) is further amended—

(1) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking ''or 2014'' and inserting ''2014, or 2015'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking ''and 2014'' and inserting ''2014, and 2015'';

(3) in subsection (d)(4), by striking ''or 2014'' and inserting ''2014, or 2015''; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2015''.

SA 3433. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. NATIONAL BLUE ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''National Blue Alert Act of 2014''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COORDINATOR.—The term ''Coordinator'' means the Blue Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice designated under subsection (d)(1).

(2) BLUE ALERT.—The term ''Blue Alert'' means information relating to the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty sent through the network.

(3) BLUE ALERT PLAN.—The term ''Blue Alert plan'' means the plan of a State, unit of local government, or Federal agency participating in the network for the dissemination of information received as a Blue Alert.

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''law enforcement officer'' shall have the same meaning as in section 1204(6) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(6)).

(5) NETWORK.—The term ''network'' means the Blue Alert communications network established by the Attorney General under subsection (c).

(6) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(c) BLUE ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The Attorney General shall establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.

(d) BLUE ALERT COORDINATOR; GUIDELINES.—

(1) COORDINATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall assign an existing officer of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network.

(2) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator shall—

(A) provide assistance to States and units of local government that are using Blue Alert plans;

(B) establish voluntary guidelines for States and units of local government to use in developing Blue Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Blue Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

(i) a list of the resources necessary to establish a Blue Alert plan;

(ii) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing a Blue Alert;

(iii) guidelines to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of any law enforcement officer who may be the subject of a Blue Alert and the family of the law enforcement officer;

(iv) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a law enforcement officer if—

(I) the law enforcement agency involved—

(aa) confirms—

(AA) the death or serious injury of the law enforcement officer; or

(BB) the attack on the law enforcement officer and that there is an indication of the death or serious injury of the officer; or

(bb) concludes that the law enforcement officer is missing in the line of duty;

(II) there is an indication of serious injury to or death of the law enforcement officer;

(III) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(IV) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

(v) guidelines—

(I) that information relating to a law enforcement officer who is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty should be provided to the National Crime Information Center database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 534 of title 28, United States Code, and any relevant crime information repository of the State involved;

(II) that a Blue Alert should, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local governments), be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the apprehension of the suspect involved or which the suspect could reasonably reach, which should not be limited to State lines;

(III) for law enforcement agencies of States or units of local government to develop plans to communicate information to neighboring States to provide for seamless communication of a Blue Alert; and

(IV) providing that a Blue Alert should be suspended when the suspect involved is apprehended or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective; and

(vi) guidelines for—

(I) the issuance of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(II) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network;

(C) develop protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period beginning at the time of the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and ending at the time of apprehension of a suspect or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective, including protocols regulating—

(i) the use of public safety communications;

(ii) command center operations; and

(iii) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures;

(D) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(E) establish an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans, which shall include—

(i) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(ii) members who are—

(I) representatives of a law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers;

(II) representatives of other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications;

(III) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

(IV) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the network;

(F) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(i) the development of the network; and

(ii) regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(G) determine—

(i) what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; and

(ii) which of the procedures and practices are effective and that do not require the expenditure of additional resources to implement.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B), protocols developed under paragraph (2)(C), and other programs established under paragraph (2), shall not be mandatory.

(B) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government), provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to the appropriate officials of law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, and other agencies.

(C) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B) shall—

(i) provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws and regulations; and

(ii) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties, including the privacy, of law enforcement officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty and the families of the officers.

(4) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Transportation, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and appropriate offices of the Department of Justice in carrying out activities under this section.

(5) RESTRICTIONS ON COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator may not—

(A) perform any official travel for the sole purpose of carrying out the duties of the Coordinator;

(B) lobby any officer of a State regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan; or

(C) host a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that requires the expenditure of Federal funds.

(6) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

SA 3434. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. SBA SURETY BOND GUARANTEE.

Section 411(c)(1) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''70'' and inserting ''90''.

SA 3435. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 223. REPORT ON INTERAGENCY INTEROPERABILITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on interagency interoperability of research and development, including on how the Secretary can encourage innovation, strengthen collaboration, and realize cost savings in scientific research.

SA 3436. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, the following:

SEC. 557. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SAFE HELPLINE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SAFE HELPROOM.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Military Rules of Evidence shall be modified to establish a privilege against the disclosure of communications between the victim of a sexual assault and personnel of the Department of Defense Safe Helpline, and between the victim of a sexual assault and personnel of the Department of Defense Safe HelpRoom, with respect to such sexual assault.

SA 3437. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN DUAL USE EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED AS SIGNIFICANT MAJOR ITEMS SHORTAGES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2015, the National Guard Bureau may acquire the modification, repair, recapitalization, modernization, or upgrade of critical dual use equipment identified as ''Significant Major Items Shortages'' from the Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Sites utilizing funds appropriated within the National Guard and Reserve equipment appropriation, including semitrailer recapitalization, High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle ambulance recapitalization, construction engineer equipment, combat mobility, and Palletized Loading Systems.

SA 3438. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. EXTENSION OF QUALIFICATION OF CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the interim final rule entitled ''TRICARE: Certified Mental Health Counselors'' prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and published on December 27, 2011, or any other provision of law—

(1) any mental health counselor who is, as of October 1, 2014, a qualified mental health provider under section 199.4 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, only while practicing under the supervision of a physician, shall continue to be a qualified mental health provider under such section for purposes of the TRICARE program until not earlier than December 31, 2015, if such mental health counselor maintains all qualifications to serve as a qualified mental health

provider under such section (including practicing under the supervision of a physician); and

(2) any mental health counselor described in paragraph (1) shall remain eligible for reimbursement under the TRICARE program while continuing to qualify as a mental health provider under such section, in accordance with such paragraph.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(1) The number of certified mental health counselors who are available to provide mental health counseling to beneficiaries of the TRICARE program, disaggregated by State and territory of the United States.

(2) The number of mental health counselors who are, as of the date of the submittal of the report, qualified mental health providers under section 199.4 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, in accordance with subsection (a)(1), only while practicing under the supervision of a physician, disaggregated by State and territory of the United States.

(3) An assessment of whether a sufficient number of certified mental health counselors will be available to provide mental health counseling to beneficiaries of the TRICARE program after December 31, 2015, or any later date to which the Secretary extends the qualification of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) as qualified mental health providers pursuant to subsection (a)(1), with emphasis on the availability of certified mental health counselors—

(A) in Alaska;

(B) in predominantly rural States;

(C) in rural communities of States that are not predominantly rural States; and

(D) in the territories of the United States.

(4) A description and assessment of the availability of the following:

(A) Mental health counseling and training programs accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

(B) Certified mental health counselors in States and territories of the United States in which such programs are not available.

(5) An assessment of the costs and benefits of requiring beneficiaries of the TRICARE program to abandon existing patient relationships with mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) after December 31, 2015, or any later date described in paragraph (3), including an assessment of the impact of that requirement on the continuity of mental health care to such beneficiaries.

(6) A description of any evidence available to the Secretary suggesting that patients of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) under the TRICARE program are dissatisfied with their professional relationships with such counselors.

(7) A justification for the determination by the Secretary that it is necessary to eliminate the qualification of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) under the TRICARE program to maintain high-quality services under such program, including whether evidence is available to the Secretary demonstrating that a statistically significant number of such mental health counselors currently credentialed as qualified mental health providers under such program are providing substandard care to beneficiaries of such program.

(8) An assessment of whether it is equitable to terminate experienced mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) from further participation under the TRICARE program in favor of potentially less experienced certified mental health counselors.

(9) A description of the obstacles faced by mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) who seek to become certified mental health counselors, including obstacles related to such mental health counselors not having graduated from an educational program certified by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

(10) A description of any modifications to regulations that the Secretary intends to propose or implement in light of the following:

(A) The extension of qualification required by subsection (a).

(B) The matters covered by the report.

(c) CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''certified mental health counselor'' has the meaning given such term in section 199.6(c)(3)(iii)(N) of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 3439. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1632. ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIALLY LICENSED SPACEPORTS AND RANGE COMPLEXES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress finds that it is critical to continue to support the national security priorities of the United States by preserving launch range capabilities that support access to space.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR SPACE LAUNCH CAPABILITY.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2015 for infrastructure and overhead for space launch capabilities, $10,000,000 shall be available for spaceports and launch and range complexes that—

(1) are commercially licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration;

(2) receive funding from the government of the State or locality in which the spaceport or complex is located;

(3) have launched national security payloads; and

(4) have the capacity to provide mid-to-low inclination orbits or polar-to-high inclination orbits in support of the national security space program.

SA 3440. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERMENT IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED UNITED STATES IN LAOS DURING VIETNAM WAR ERA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2402(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(10) Any individual—

''(A) who—

''(i) was naturalized pursuant to section 2(1) of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–207; 8 U.S.C. 1423 note); and

''(ii) at the time of the individual's death resided in the United States; or

''(B) who—

''(i) the Secretary determines served with a special guerrilla unit or irregular forces operating from a base in Laos in support of the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975; and

''(ii) at the time of the individual's death—

''(I) was a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; and

''(II) resided in the United States.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an individual dying on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3441. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 10, strike ''$257,500,000'' and insert ''$294,500,000''.

On page 53, line 21, strike ''$53,000,000'' and insert ''$90,000,000''.

SA 3442. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11.

On page 7, strike lines 1 and 2.

SA 3443. Mr. REID (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''fiscal years 2004 and 2005'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''fiscal years 2004 and 2005'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 214C. ACCOUNTABILITY.

''All grants awarded by the Administrator under this subtitle shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

''(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'unresolved audit finding' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that

the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued and any appeal has been completed.

''(B) AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this subtitle to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

''(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this subtitle that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this subtitle during the following 2 fiscal years.

''(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subtitle, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a grant under this subtitle.

''(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this subtitle during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall—

''(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

''(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

''(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'nonprofit organization' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator may not award a grant under any grant program described in this subtitle to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this subtitle and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Administrator, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Administrator shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

''(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

''(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this subtitle may be used by the Administrator, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, including the Administrator, provides prior written authorization through an award process or subsequent application that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

''(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

''(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.''.

SEC. 3. CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

Section 1402(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Of the sums''; and

(2) by striking ''available for the United States Attorneys Offices'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''available only for—

''(i) the United States Attorneys Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide and improve services for the benefit of crime victims in the Federal criminal justice system (as described in 3771 of title 18, United States Code, and section 503 of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607)) through victim coordinators, victims' specialists, and advocates, including for the administrative support of victim coordinators and advocates providing such services; and

''(ii) a Victim Notification System.

''(B) Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may not be used for any purpose that is not specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A).''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a field hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Monday, July 7, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cajundome Convention Center, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine Outer Continental Shelf production and to identify what actions the Federal Government can take to maximize the opportunities and minimize the challenges.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to herman_gesser@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Herman Gesser, III, at (202) 224–7826, or Clayton Allen at (202) 224–8164.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 2442, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and for other purposes; S. 2465, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; S. 2479, A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; S. 2480, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes; and S. 2503, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled ''Improving the Trust System: Continuing Oversight of the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled ''Indian Gaming: The Next 25 Years.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled ''When Catastrophe Strikes: Responses to Natural Disasters in Indian Country.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''The State of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Industry: Federal Efforts to Attract 100 Million Visitors Annually.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10 a.m., room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Preserving American's Transit and Highways Act.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Sexual Assault on Campus: Working to Ensure Student Safety.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 26, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Jon Bosworth, be granted floor privileges for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2076, Calendar No. 375.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2076) to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3442) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the requirement that the Commander of the United States Transportation Command be a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and that a substitute member of the Board be an officer of the United States Transportation Command)

On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11.

On page 7, strike lines 1 and 2.

The bill (S. 2076), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2076

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 ''U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 51312 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 51312. Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy (referred to in this section as the 'Board' and the 'Academy', respectively) shall be established to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

''(b) APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, the Board shall be composed of—

''(A) 2 Senators appointed by the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(B) 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

''(C) 1 Senator appointed by the Vice President, who shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(D) 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader, at least 1 of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

''(E) the Commander of the Military Sealift Command;

''(F) the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy of the United States Coast Guard;

''(G) 4 individuals appointed by the President; and

''(H) as ex officio members—

''(i) the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(ii) the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

''(iii) the chairman of the Advisory Board to the Academy established under section 51313; and

''(iv) the member of the House of Representatives in whose congressional district the Academy is located, as a non-voting member, unless such member of the House of Representatives is appointed as a voting member of the Board under subparagraph (B) or (D).

''(2) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Of the individuals appointed by the President under paragraph (1)(H)—

''(A) at least 2 shall be graduates of the Academy;

''(B) at least 1 shall be a senior corporate officer from a United States maritime shipping company that participates in the Maritime Security Program, or in any Maritime Administration program providing incentives for companies to register their vessels in the United States, and this appointment shall rotate biennially among such companies; and

''(C) 1 or more may be a Senate-confirmed Presidential appointee, a member of the Senior Executive Service, or an officer of flag-rank who from the United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or any of the military services that commission graduates of the Academy, exclusive of the Board members described in subparagraph (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1).

''(3) TERM OF SERVICE.—Each member of the Board shall serve for a term of 2 years commencing at the beginning of each Congress, except that any member whose term on the Board has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is designated.

''(4) VACANCIES.—If a member of the Board is no longer able to serve on the Board or resigns, the Designated Federal Officer selected under subsection (g)(2) shall immediately notify the official who appointed such member. Not later than 60 days after that notification, such official shall designate a replacement to serve the remainder of such member's term.

''(5) CURRENT MEMBERS.—Each member of the Board serving as a member of the Board on the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act shall continue to serve on the Board for the remainder of such member's term.

''(6) DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SUBSTITUTE BOARD MEMBERS.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—A member of the Board described in subparagraph (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1) or subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (2) may, if unable to attend or participate in an activity described in subsection (d), (e), or (f), designate another individual to serve as a substitute member of the Board, on a temporary basis, to attend or participate in such activity.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A substitute member of the Board designated under subparagraph (A) shall be—

''(i) an individual who has been appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate;

''(ii) a member of the Senior Executive Service; or

''(iii) an officer of flag-rank who is employed by—

''(I) the United States Coast Guard; or

''(II) the Military Sealift Command.

''(C) PARTICIPATION.—A substitute member of the Board designated under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall be permitted to fully participate in the proceedings and activities of the Board;

''(ii) shall report back to the member on the Board's activities not later than 15 days following the substitute member's participation in such activities; and

''(iii) shall be permitted to participate in the preparation of reports described in paragraph (j) related to any proceedings or activities of the Board in which such substitute member participates.

''(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On a biennial basis, the Board shall select from among its members, a member of the House of Representatives or a Senator to serve as the Chairperson.

''(2) ROTATION.—A member of the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate shall alternately serve as the Chair of the Board on a biennial basis.

''(3) TERM.—An individual may not serve as Chairperson for more than 1 consecutive term.

''(d) MEETINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet several times each year as provided for in the Charter described in paragraph (2)(B), including at least 1 meeting held at the Academy.

''(2) SELECTION AND CONSIDERATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, the Designated Federal Officer selected under subsection (g)(2) shall organize a meeting of the Board for the purposes of—

''(A) selecting a Chairperson; and

''(B) considering an official Charter for the Board, which shall provide for the meeting of the Board several times each year.

''(e) VISITING THE ACADEMY.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually on a date selected by the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Superintendent of the Academy.

''(2) OTHER VISITS.—In cooperation with the Superintendent, the Board or its members may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board.

''(3) ACCESS.—While visiting the Academy under this subsection, members of the Board shall have reasonable access to the grounds, facilities, midshipmen, faculty, staff, and other personnel of the Academy for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board.

''(f) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Board shall inquire into the state of morale and discipline, the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods, and other matters relating to the Academy that the Board decides to consider.

''(g) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall—

''(1) provide support as deemed necessary by the Board for the performance of the Board's functions;

''(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, select a Designated Federal Officer to support the performance of the Board's functions; and

''(3) in cooperation with the Maritime Administrator and the Superintendent of the Academy, advise the Board of any institutional issues, consistent with applicable laws concerning the disclosure of information.

''(h) STAFF.—Staff members may be designated to serve without reimbursement as staff for the Board by—

''(1) the Chairperson of the Board;

''(2) the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

''(3) the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

''(i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While serving away from home or regular place of business, a member of the Board or a staff member designated under subsection (h) shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

''(j) REPORTS.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after each annual visit required under subsection (e)(1), the Board shall submit to the President a written report of its actions, views, and recommendations pertaining to the Academy.

''(2) OTHER REPORTS.—If the members of the Board visit the Academy under subsection (e)(2), the Board may—

''(A) prepare a report on such visit; and

''(B) if approved by a majority of the members of the Board, submit such report to the President not later than 60 days after the date of the approval.

''(3) ADVISORS.—The Board may call in advisers—

''(A) for consultation regarding the execution of the Board's responsibility under subsection (f); or

''(B) to assist in the preparation of a report described in paragraph (1) or (2).

''(4) SUBMISSION.—A report submitted to the President under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be concurrently submitted to—

''(A) the Secretary of Transportation;

''(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

''(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.''.

VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 431, S. 1799.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1799) to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Coons substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3443), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''fiscal years 2004 and 2005'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''fiscal years 2004 and 2005'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 214C. ACCOUNTABILITY.

''All grants awarded by the Administrator under this subtitle shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

''(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'unresolved audit finding' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued and any appeal has been completed.

''(B) AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this subtitle to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

''(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this subtitle that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this subtitle during the following 2 fiscal years.

''(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subtitle, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a grant under this subtitle.

''(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this subtitle during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall—

''(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

''(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

''(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'nonprofit organization' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator may not award a grant under any grant program described in this subtitle to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this subtitle and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Administrator, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and

contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Administrator shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

''(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

''(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this subtitle may be used by the Administrator, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, including the Administrator, provides prior written authorization through an award process or subsequent application that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

''(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

''(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.''.

SEC. 3. CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

Section 1402(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Of the sums''; and

(2) by striking ''available for the United States Attorneys Offices'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''available only for—

''(i) the United States Attorneys Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide and improve services for the benefit of crime victims in the Federal criminal justice system (as described in 3771 of title 18, United States Code, and section 503 of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607)) through victim coordinators, victims' specialists, and advocates, including for the administrative support of victim coordinators and advocates providing such services; and

''(ii) a Victim Notification System.

''(B) Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may not be used for any purpose that is not specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A).''.

The bill (S. 1799), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TAKING OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 439, H.R. 2388.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2388) to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2388) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 490, S. Res. 491, S. Res. 492, and S. Res. 493.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 492

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to honor ''A Prairie Home Companion,'' which for 40 years has shared with its listeners the comings and goings of the good people of that most Minnesota of towns, Lake Wobegon—where as everyone knows, all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.

Only 12 people were in the audience for that very first broadcast on July 6, 1974, at the Janet Wallace Auditorium at Macalester College in Saint Paul. If those dozen people got there by car, they paid 55 cents per gallon to fill the tanks of their Ford Pintos or Plymouth Valiants. If they stopped for a McDonald's burger afterward, they paid 30 cents.

How things have changed—and not just the price of gas and burgers! Today, 40 years later, more than 600 radio stations carry ''A Prairie Home Companion'' to four million listeners every week from the historic Fitzgerald Theater in Saint Paul.

It has won a Peabody Award and has broadcast from nations including Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany and Iceland and nearly every State in the Nation. It has inspired a movie by the same name, which won four international awards. It has helped make Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media household names.

And it has certainly made its creator and host, Garrison Keillor, a household name! Mr. Keillor has won Grammy and George Foster Peabody awards, not to mention the National Humanities Medal.

But one thing has not changed at all from that very first broadcast: This little variety program resonates with people. It has warmed our hearts with its stories, songs, poems and jokes. It has made us laugh, made us cry, and made us sing along. And it has given its millions of listeners a hometown they can call their own—right in the heart of Minnesota.

Madam President, I would like to congratulate Minnesota Public Radio, American Public Media, and the cast and crew of ''A Prairie Home Companion'' on 40 years of radio excellence. This is one show that is most certainly above average.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD BAKER, JR.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 494, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 494) relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 494) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2562

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told that S. 2562 has been introduced and is at the desk and is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2562) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President

of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, June 26, to Monday, July 7, Senators LEVIN and CARPER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014, THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 30 at 12 noon, and Thursday, July 3, at 1:30 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, July 3, 2014, until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use until later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up 10 minutes each; and that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 738; that all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Krause nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that no further motions be in order to the nomination, that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session; and, finally, that when the Senate resumes legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363 and the Senate vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Sportsmen's Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 494 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2014, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

CHRISTOPHER A. HART, OF COLORADO, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, RESIGNED.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

JOHN W. LESLIE, JR., OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

MADELINE COX ARLEO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH, RETIRED.

AMOS L. MAZZANT, III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE T. JOHN WARD, RETIRED.

ROBERT LEE PITMAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE W. ROYAL FURGESON, JR., RETIRED.

ROBERT WILLIAM SCHROEDER III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE DAVID FOLSOM, RETIRED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 53(B) IN THE GRADE INDICATED:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADMIRAL (SELECTEE) JAMES M. HEINZ

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CURTIS L. ABENDROTH
GEORGE D. MCHUGH
STEVEN M. ROWE
MONIE R. ULIS
MICHAEL J. WISE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN C. COPELAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL E. LINZEY
JOEL O. SEVERSON
GARY L. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOEL R. BURKE
RUSSELL L. DEWELL
DOUGLAS A. ETTER
PETER JARAMILLO
DARREN L. KING
RICHARD J. KOCH
MICHAEL J. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

NORMAN A. HETZLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

STEVEN F. FINDER

To be major

DANIEL H. ALDANA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JASON S. HETZEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

FELIPE O. BLANDING, SR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

DOUGLAS T. MO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JODY M. POWERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES R. POWERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER D. SNYDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

RICHARD JIMENEZ, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

JAIME A. QUEJADA

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER J. KANE

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN S. DONOHOE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TIMIKA B. LINDSAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CHRISTOPHER A. MIDDLETON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 26, 2014:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JO EMILY HANDELSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ESTHER PUAKELA KIA'AINA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

VINCENT G. LOGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SPECIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KAREN DYNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

STUART E. JONES, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MRS. EILEEN HIGGINS MEEGAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable Mrs. Eileen (nee Higgins) Meegan on the occasion of her 95th birthday, Tuesday, July 1st, 2014. The daughter of proud Irish South Buffalo residents, Eileen is the last surviving sibling of five children.

In 1939, Eileen fell in love with and married a fellow native of South Buffalo, Ray Meegan. Eileen has always been the consummate caregiver. She had the difficult role of wife to a soldier and police officer. Ray served the people of the United States in the First Cavalry during World War II, and the citizens of the City of Buffalo as a Buffalo Police Officer; in all of this, Eileen was by his side. Economically, many people at the time struggled. Mrs. Meegan held her family together and thrived.

The couple was together for 39 years, until Ray's death. They raised four happy and successful children—Celine, Daniel, Sean, and Dorothy Delores (Dee)—all of whom have remained important members of the Western New York community. Their sons Dan and Sean have even followed in their father's footsteps, serving in the Buffalo Police force.

At age 94, Eileen is in great health and continues to have a very strong mind. She has many special talents. Mrs. Meegan created and sewed her own wedding gown from scratch. She still enjoys cultivating a beautiful garden, and loves baking and cooking for her family. I am inspired by the resilience and continued spirit of this great woman—a true example of a loving wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to speak on the behalf of this momentous occasion in the life of a proud Western New Yorker, Mrs. Eileen Meegan. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Mrs. Meegan, and wishing her many more years of good health and full life experiences.

HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE MICHAEL ALSUP

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the law enforcement community from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Chief of Police Michael Alsup at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

Chief Alsup has faithfully served the public for over 42 years. Currently, he works as Chief of Police at Harper College, where he has spent the past 14 years ensuring the safety and improving the lives of students, teachers, administrators, and parents alike. While Chief Alsup is set to retire at the end of the month, his legacy of service will live on at Harper's thriving campus.

Mr. Alsup's tenure began as a Deputy Sheriff and Detective for Kendall County in 1972. He has since then served as the Chief of Police of the Sandwich Police Department and as Lieutenant at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. After leaving the College of Dupage, he began working for Harper College, where he serves as both the Chief of Police and a member of the College's Adjunct Faculty in the Criminal Justice Program in addition to serving as the College's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Chief Alsup can proudly conclude a distinguished career having made an impact on the lives of thousands of students. I know I join his family, colleagues, students and friends in wishing him much success in this next chapter.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in commemorating Chief Alsup and his many years of service.

IN HONOR OF JIM KIRACOFE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Kiracofe on the occasion of his retirement as the District Program Administrator for the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jim can be very proud of his service to the people of Central Ohio. His steady commitment to his duties and the well-being of the residents of Licking County inspires everyone around him. The current state of the district stands as a significant affirmation of his role as a guardian of our vital resources. For consistent and outstanding achievement in his management practices and conservation philosophy the people of the district express their gratitude. Such recognition honors him and reflects well on our entire community.

I have enjoyed working with Jim over the last fourteen years and consider his leadership to have been an asset to our community. His advice, professional opinion and effectiveness in achieving success provided invaluable assistance to me and my staff on many occasions. I have relied on his guidance more than once, and he has always provided me with his wisdom.

His leadership and administrative abilities will be sorely missed, and his expertise and experience will be very difficult to replace. However, Licking County will reap the benefits of his stewardship of the Soil and Conservation District for many years into the future.

Therefore, his friends and colleagues wish to recognize him and his achievements by holding a ceremony in his honor at the Agriculture Service Center in Newark, Ohio, and I am very pleased to wish him well and much success as he embarks on many new challenges.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, and urge the full House to vote on this legislation without delay. Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as Americans, and any attempts to limit this right on a discriminatory basis must be struck down.

The constitutional right to vote existed for nearly a century, but millions of Americans were still routinely denied the right to vote based on the color of their skin. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act and our country made incredible strides to eliminate voter suppression and discrimination.

Discrimination at the polls is still a fact of life in many parts of our country. Congress recognized this when it passed the most recent reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006 by a unanimous vote in the Senate and a 390–33 margin in the House. Despite this overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and a voluminous record detailing the ongoing need for this legislation, one year ago this week, the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act in Shelby County v. Holder.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wisely stated in her dissent of the Court's decision that to strike down the Voting Rights Act "when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes [to election laws] is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you're not getting wet." With efforts across the country to restrict the ability of individuals to register and vote, it's clear that we still need the "umbrella" protection that the Voting Rights Act has provided for nearly 50 years.

The Voting Rights Amendment Act is a bipartisan measure that will restore the critical voting protections that were struck down by the Supreme Court in Shelby. This bill will ensure that states and localities that have a recent history of voting rights violations will be subject to the same strong oversight that has been so successful since 1965.

On the day he signed the Voting Rights Act, President Lyndon Johnson stated: "Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield." Congress has a similar opportunity to ensure that the all-important protections of the Voting Rights Act remain in place. Let's join together and ensure that this "triumph for freedom" is not lost forever.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITOO SOCIETY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has been dedicated to improving central Illinois for 100 years. The Itoo Society is the oldest Lebanese-American organization in the United States and one of the oldest heritage societies in Illinois. Named after a small village in northern Lebanon, the Itoo Society was formed in 1914 by a group of Lebanese immigrants who came together to support their members through financial and emotional hardships. Since then, it has developed into an active community group that Peoria, Illinois is proud to claim.

Peorians know the Itoo Society to be a family oriented organization that honors its members' heritage and culture. The Society has long been dedicated to charitable works that benefit the community members in Peoria as well as villagers in Itoo, Lebanon. Many of their festivals illustrate their dedication to commendable causes, including Peoria's oldest food festival, which honors those who have served in our military. I think my colleagues and I can learn a valuable lesson from the Itoo Society as its members are known for producing results through a team-oriented approach to their many projects.

In addition to serving its members, the Itoo Society opens its doors to charitable organizations and small businesses. By providing the community with a meeting place for business purposes and public fundraising events, the Society contributes to the success of other community institutions. This function is another way the Society brings together friends and neighbors who share similar problems, values, and ideas.

An impressive list of Peorians can claim Itoo roots, including former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, former City Councilman and now Chairman of the Society, Leonard Unes, and Peoria County Circuit Judge Steve Kouri.

I'd like to thank Corrie Ricca and Carl Williams, the Ladies' and Men's Branch Presidents, respectively, as well as Chairman Leonard Unes and the rest of the Itoo Society for their continuing service to the greater Peoria community and its devoted Lebanese members. On behalf of the constituents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, I commend the exemplary record of service the Itoo Society has contributed. I am honored today to recognize their 100 years of effort. May they have many more to come.

238 YEARS AGO THIS DAY IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's 238th birthday and the brave men and women of The Armed Forces and their families, who've paid and continue to pay the great price of Freedom and Independence for us all. And on this Fourth of July surrounded by your loved ones, say prayer and give thanks to them all. I submit this poem penned in their honor, and America's 238th birthday by Albert Carey Caswell.

238 AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

238 years ago this day . . .
As the birth of this Nation so made its way . . .
Declaring Independence as had they . . .
Shouting out across the world on that day!
With a shot heard around the world to say!
That for the greater good so willing to pay!
The greatest treasure,
That Last Full Measure had all of they!
To Live Free Or Die on that day!
238 years ago this day!
And since then,
throughout the coming years . . .
The price of Freedom,
has been bought and paid by all of these so dear!
As one truth!
One constant!
Has so appeared!
To weigh from year to year!
Are all of these brave hearts,
who have given and gave so all without fear!
And all of those families who have so lived in tears . . .
Whose loved ones now lie in such dark quiet graves so dear . . .
From the beaches of Normandy, to the jungles of Nam,
to An bar Province they've so fought and died for us all so clear . . .
As their courage,
all in the darkest of all nights has so persevered!
With their most precious lives they gave!
And all of their strong arms and legs!
And beautiful eyes upon their face!
As generation after generation,
these magnificent's the price of Freedom have paid!
''with the bombs bursting in air''
''with the rockets red glare''
''gave proof through the night that our flag was still''
''O . . . say can you see'' while we all live so free?
This Independence Day!
And remember that somewhere far away,
there are heroes who for all of you will die this day!
And that in hospitals and towns all across this here USA!
There are fine Patriots of Peace,
who must rebuild their lives for the price of Freedom they paid!
So for all of them a prayer so say,
and carry them deep down in your hearts this day . . .
On this Independence Day,
on this America's 238th birthday!
Independence!

IN RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plymouth's four fallen soldiers who died during the Vietnam War, and to recognize the Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony being held next week.

During the Vietnam War, Plymouth lost four of its own citizens who answered the call of duty. These selfless individuals will be memorialized by family, friends, and neighbors in their hometown at Plymouth's Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony on July 3, 2014. Today, I would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting the names of the fallen:

Staff Sergeant Frederick T. Garside, U.S. Air Force—killed in action in Laos

Specialist Five Robert B. Hedge, U.S. Army—killed in action in Bien Hoa

Lance Corporal Wayne Moore, U.S. Army—killed in action in Quang Tri

HM3 Paul Rezendes, U.S. Navy—killed in action in Quang Tri

These courageous, distinguished men embodied the best ideals of our country and dedicated their lives to its security. I know I speak for many when I say that the memory of these four men will live on as an inspiration to us all and will serve as a reminder of what it means to serve one's country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize the outstanding sacrifice that these veterans made for their country. I ask that my colleagues join me in this remembrance, and in thanking all of our service members deployed across the globe.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN for organizing this important special order to highlight LGBT Pride Month. Thank you for your leadership as a Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and really on so many other issues affecting our underserved communities.

Let me just say how proud I am to be a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. Our Caucus is stronger than ever and is really beating the drum for equality, ending discrimination and violence, and promoting the health and well-being for LGBT people here in the U.S. and around the world.

It makes me very proud to be here today during Pride Month as we commemorate the anniversary of last year's landmark Supreme Court decisions that struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and brought marriage equality back to my home state of California.

These decisions were strong and decisive steps forward in the march towards full equality for all.

Following those decisions, I had the privilege of officiating weddings for same-sex couples at Oakland City Hall—and let me tell you, they reflected the diversity of my district, the diversity of this country, and the diversity of the LGBT community.

Across the nation, some 2.8 million African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islanders identify as LGBT.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law has produced studies that provide us with critical data and analysis of these LGBT communities and their unique features, challenges, and needs.

The full reports can be found at http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/.

One of the most striking disparities as we know for LGBT people of color is in HIV/AIDS rates. In 2010, African American gay and bisexual men between ages 13 and 24 accounted for more than twice as many new infections as their white or Latino peers.

These numbers show clearly that as we close out the month of June with our celebration of Pride Month, we must not lose sight of the hard work that remains to be done, in this country and around the world. Discrimination, unemployment, and even physical violence continue to be the daily reality for far too many LGBT people and it needs to stop.

Congress needs to act. We must pass ENDA, SNDA, my bill, the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, and other critical pieces of legislation that create real protections for LGBT people and full equality under the law.

I close by reiterating how proud I am to represent a district with a strong and diverse LGBT community and join my LGBT Equality Caucus colleagues in staying the course and fighting for what's right.

CONGRATULATING MRS. LUCETIA MANWARING FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring as she embarks upon 20 years of service as a congressional staff member. As a Senior Constituent Services Representative in my office, Mrs. Manwaring has established herself as a distinguished professional with a demonstrated record of achievement.

Lucetia holds a unique blend of experiences having also served in the U.S. Navy from 1989–1993. During this time, she served on the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Nuclear Repair Division; Served honorably in U.S. Desert Storm Campaign; and was a member of the U.S. Ready Reserve from 1993–2000. In addition, she has received several awards, including the Navy Wide Command Award, the National Defense Service Medal for Desert Storm, and a Naval Citation.

Lucetia received her Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University, and her Bachelor of Business Administration from Davenport University. She was a member of the Dean's List upon completing both degrees.

Since 1994, Mrs. Manwaring has displayed leadership and commitment, engaging with thousands of constituents throughout the State of Michigan. Her tenure began as a staff member for my uncle, retired U.S. Congressman Dale Kildee. She met Dale Kildee while serving in the Navy, and began her career as a staff member shortly thereafter. Upon his retirement, I was grateful to have her join my staff as well. I am grateful to be represented by such dedicated employees who work hard to make our community and nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring for her unwavering commitment and extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to her for her years of service to our great country.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC GATEWAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Arc Gateway. For more than six decades, The Arc Gateway and its dedicated staff have served those in Northwest Florida with developmental disabilities, providing them with increased opportunities and numerous first-class facilities to learn, work, play, and reach their full potential.

Like so many great organizations in this country, The Arc Gateway started out as a grassroots movement to address an unmet community need. Pearl Nelson—whose son, Chris, has Down Syndrome—sought resources to help her son and family, but found that no such organization existed in Northwest Florida. So, she placed an advertisement in the paper to find parents of children with special needs and form a support group. Thus, The Arc Gateway was born. Together, these parents drafted a constitution, opened a one-room school house, and became members of the state and national Arc.

Over the years, The Arc Gateway saw the changing needs of the local community and responded with a number of new programs to meet a range of important priorities. From this environment, the Pollak Activity Center and Pollak Rehabilitation Workshop were created to give adults with developmental disabilities places to continue to learn and grow. The Arc Gateway also realized the necessity of early intervention for children and, in 1974, began the Infant Stimulation Program. Three years later, the Pearl Nelson Center expanded to become the Pearl Nelson Preschool for children ages two through five. Another critical need that arose in the community was residential support programs, and The Arc Gateway, once again, stepped up to meet these needs and established the Women's Residential Training Center.

Today, The Arc Gateway has grown from its humble beginnings to serve nearly 1,000 children and adults. They also provide an extremely impressive array of services to the community, including: the Pearl Nelson Child Development Center, which provides early intervention and pediatric services; the Pollak Training Center, where adults can participate in education classes, computer courses, and art instruction, in addition to job training; community based employment opportunities and services that connect people with local job options where they can succeed and enrich their lives; the Senior Adult Program at Bayview Senior Center, where senior citizens with developmental disabilities can access health, social, and leisure activities; as well as supported living and in-home support services to help individuals function in their own homes, and group homes that provide a great environment for support and companionship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the tremendous success of The Arc Gateway over its 60-year history. Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, volunteers, and parents, The Arc Gateway has grown from a small support group to an irreplaceable community staple. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to meet unaddressed needs. My wife Vicki and I congratulate The Arc Gateway on 60 incredibly successful years and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the Northwest Florida community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING HUGH RALSTON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Hugh J. Ralston, a remarkable visionary and steadfast leader whose commitment to the success of his community and the growth of philanthropy are immeasurable.

With over a decade of service as the Ventura County Community Foundation's (VCCF) President and Chief Executive Officer, Hugh Ralston oversaw the foundation increase its assets by one million dollars. This growth in resources included the purchase of the VCCF nonprofit center, the expansion of irrevocable planned donations and philanthropic contributions throughout the community, and a tenfold increase in its annual scholarship support that have benefitted hundreds of Ventura County students. With an annual distribution amount of $1.3 million, VCCF plays an incredible supportive role for our region's students and nonprofit organizations.

It is powerhouse foundations like the Ventura County Community Foundation that empower the greatest efforts for change and benefits that spread all across our community and nation. The work that VCCF has done, with Hugh Ralston at the helm, has been duly recognized as being in compliance with national standards, the highest form of peer review for U.S. Community Foundations and the only form of accreditation within the U.S. Philanthropic community.

In the past decade, Hugh has secured partnerships with prominent local organizations which support veterans, farmworkers, social justice advocates, medical students, professionals, and many other communal groups. During his time as the head of the VCCF, Hugh established the annual Community Leaders Awards and the biennial President's Awards which create networks and recognition for Ventura County leaders who do countless work with their nonprofits.

Community leaders like Hugh exemplify Ventura County's unsurpassed leadership. Although Hugh will be stepping down from his position as President and CEO of Ventura County Community Foundation, his legacy at VCCF and his immense impact on the community will continue to inspire the future of nonprofits and local philanthropy.

Hugh Ralston has been an amazing force in our region. The efforts that he has made for students, non-profit organizations, and the working community have ensured a remarkable investment in the future and deserve an innumerable level of gratitude.

I graciously thank Hugh for his unwavering commitment and dedication for the past 11

years as the President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. It has been my honor to collaborate and work with Hugh and there is no doubt in my mind that his influence will extend to many generations of community engagement and philanthropy.

HONORING MR. NEAL HARRELL FOR HIS WORK AS AN INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER IN HONDURAS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Neal Harrell for his tremendous volunteer efforts with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation. It is an honor to have such an upstanding citizen in my district.

Recently, Mr. Harrell, who is an employee of Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, traveled to Honduras as an International Foundation volunteer to help employees at the Roatan Electric Cooperative implement their newly-acquired smart grid system. This trip was part of the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas project. Mr. Harrell's volunteer efforts supported the Alliance's goal to share experience and provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Mr. Harrell's efforts will help the Smart Grid Alliance of the Americas project improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and most importantly improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America. I ask that you join me in recognizing Neal Harrell for his excellence in volunteer work for electric cooperatives across the nation. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor one of our nation's greatest landmarks, Yosemite National Park. I am proud to be joined by: Rep. LAMALFA, Rep. HUFFMAN, Rep. GARAMENDI, Rep. THOMPSON, Rep. MATSUI, Rep. BERA, Rep. COOK, Rep. MCNERNEY, Rep. DENHAM, Rep. GEORGE MILLER, Rep. SPEIER, Rep. SWALWELL, Rep. COSTA, Rep. HONDA, Rep. ESHOO, Rep. LOFGREN, Rep. FARR, Rep. VALADAO, Rep. NUNES, Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. CAPPS, Rep. BROWNLEY, Rep. CHU, Rep. SCHIFF, Rep. CÁRDENAS, Rep. SHERMAN, Rep. GARY MILLER, Rep. NAPOLITANO, Rep. WAXMAN, Rep. BECERRA, Rep. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Rep. RUIZ, Rep. BASS, Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Rep. ROYCE, Rep. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Rep. TAKANO, Rep. CALVERT, Rep. HAHN, Rep. CAMPBELL, Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Rep. LOWENTHAL, Rep. ROHRABACHER, Rep. ISSA, Rep. HUNTER, Rep. VARGAS, Rep. PETERS, and Rep. DAVIS.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Yosemite Grant Act, creating, on June 30, 1864, the earliest parts of what would grow into the beautiful national park that we have today.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln took the unprecedented step of setting aside this scenic tract of wilderness in central California for public use and recreation. The creation of this first public park, preserved for the enjoyment of the public, served as the catalyst for the creation of a vast system of lands that provide recreational opportunities across the country, including more than 400 national parks.

Yosemite's development into a national park made it one of the nation's first travel destinations. Countless millions of Americans have visited the park over the last 150 years to enjoy the scenic beauty of nature. More than just idle viewing, Yosemite's heritage includes a dedication to camping and hiking that allows park visitors to immerse themselves in one of the American people's greatest treasures. Providing these various recreational activities, that so greatly enhance the visitor experience, is the lifeblood of the surrounding foothill communities.

Today, Yosemite National Park receives over 4 million annual visitors. They come from around the world to see the beauty and majesty of our nation. This includes Yosemite's two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Tuolumne and the Merced; over 800 miles of trails, including the renowned Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail; the awe-inspiring scenery created by the area's rich volcanic and glacial history; and the groves of Giant Sequoia trees.

The park includes parts of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and contains several of the highest peaks in North America. Some of the world's most spectacular and unique geologic formations exist in Yosemite National Park, including renowned formations such as Half Dome, Sentinel Dome, El Capitan, Glacier Point and the Royal Arches. Where the rivers wind through these impressive geological formations, there are some of the world's most majestic waterfalls: Yosemite Falls, Snow Creek Falls, Sentinel Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Nevada Fall, and Waterwheel Falls, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite National Park is truly one of our nation's greatest treasures and we ask all the Members of this body to join us in celebrating its past and committing to preserving its future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOMECOMING OF THE CHARLES W. MORGAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the return of the *Charles W. Morgan* whaling ship to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The *Morgan* is the last American whaling ship in a fleet that had at one time numbered over 2,700 vessels. Built and launched in 1841, she is the oldest American commercial ship that is still afloat. Known as a "lucky ship", the *Morgan* successfully navigated dangerous storms, Arctic ice, and the roundings of Cape Horn during her 80-year whaling career. The ship embarked on 37 voyages between 1841 and 1921, covering every corner of the globe.

The *Morgan* was designated a National Historic Landmark by order of the Secretary of the Interior in 1966, and she was also a recipient of the coveted World Ship Trust Award. Since her arrival at Mystic Seaport, more than 20 million visitors have walked her decks. Next week will be a homecoming for the Morgan as she returns to New Bedford, Massachusetts, the site of her initial launch on July 21, 1841 from the yard of Jethro and Zachariah.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the *Charles W. Morgan* on this joyous occasion of her homecoming to New Bedford. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating her long and storied career.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, efforts to reform our immigration system in the House have been blocked. It's been a year since our counterparts in the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive legislation, but the House Republican leadership has rejected the Senate bill without any attempt to shape a House response.

Meanwhile, 11 million undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and defend our country continue to be deported; potentially 135,000 immigrants a year may be wrongfully detained and exploited according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts with detention centers; and countless others frequently endure harassment and abuse in the workplace because they are not legally recognized.

When did we veer so dangerously far off course? America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the first settlers, to the Great Wave, to the fight for legalization today, we're all either immigrants ourselves or direct descendants of them.

In fact, twenty-six percent of residents in my congressional district were born in a foreign country, compared to 13 percent nationwide.

As a first-generation American, I know the human side of this issue. My father traveled thousands of miles to this land, huddled by his mother's side, fleeing the religious persecution of Christians. He studied, learned, worked and excelled. He married, loved and raised his three children. He flew the American flag in front of his home every day, sang the praises of our country, and said prayers of thanksgiving daily for the blessings of America.

The opportunity my family was given in America is always with me, and I'm committed to seeing that everyone has a share in that same opportunity.

As a policymaker, I recognize that comprehensive immigration reform will also provide immense economic benefits to our country.

It's estimated that the Senate-passed comprehensive immigration reform bill could reduce the deficit by more than $800 billion in the next 20 years, according to a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis.

It's also estimated that wages would ultimately rise and our GDP would increase by over three percent in the next decade. In my congressional district, we would stand to gain over 17,000 jobs by 2023, according to an American Action Network analysis.

We're already making progress. The Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is allowing hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who were brought by their parents to the United States as small children, to gain temporary legal status, including work authorization and protection from deportation. This is the only country these young people know and to which they have pledged their allegiance. They deserve to be recognized.

The economic case is clear. Human lives are at stake. The founding principles of our country are on trial. Now is the time to act on comprehensive reform.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4870, the FY2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

I commend the House Appropriations Committee's continued support for our servicemembers and our national defense. However, I have serious concerns with a number of misguided funding provisions in this year's DoD Appropriations bill. We have to budget based on reality, instead of writing a blank check and holding onto as ''much of the stuff and the training as possible'' and hoping that ''some miracle happens and we get money next year that we don't have now,'' as Chairman MCKEON put it last month. As a result of this line of thinking, this legislation avoids making many tough choices.

As was the case with last month's Defense Authorization bill, H.R. 4870 provides billions of dollars in funding that the Department of Defense neither requested nor needs. This includes funding for additional EA–18G aircraft, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, and unrequested upgrades to the M–1 Abrams tank. It also blocks the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C–130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

I also strongly object to sections 8107, 8108, 8139, and 9015 of the bill, which continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I was also disappointed that two amendments were adopted on the House floor which would bar the use of funds to transfer Guantanamo detainees to Yemen and other foreign countries. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to lift the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and close down this facility once-and-for-all.

This bill also provides $79 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations even though we have not received a detailed OCO budget request. There is no justification for this amount. The bill holds back 85% of the funding from being obligated until the Pentagon submits a detailed spending plan. But this is no safeguard because the Pentagon still determines virtually all of the details of how the funding is spent. Congress has no opportunity to provide input through regular order into how much we should spend for war operations and on what. We should take notice that $79 billion is larger than every other appropriations bill except for two—Defense and Labor, HHS, Education. We need to provide at least some minimum level of oversight and control over such a large sum of money.

Despite my overall opposition to this legislation, I was happy that a bipartisan amendment offered by Rep. LOFGREN was adopted that would limit funding for many backdoor programs within Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. This was a provision that was initially in the USA Freedom Act before being stripped in its final passage and would prevent the NSA from being able to search government databases for foreign communications content of American citizens without a warrant. The passage of this amendment will strengthen the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. Today's bill also continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military and fully funds the President's request for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs.

I also want to make clear my views with respect to the amendments relating to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force against the al Queda elements responsible for the attacks of 9/11/2001 and the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq. The President has announced his intention to end combat operations in Afghanistan at the end of this year, and to keep a residual force in Afghanistan for an additional year subject to a Status of Forces Agreement. There is also the question of how the existing use of force authorization applies to military action outside of Afghanistan, such as in Yemen. Given the changing circumstances, it makes sense to end it or to revise the current authorization and adapt it to the current situation.

As for the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq, it should be terminated. We have withdrawn our troops from Iraq, and we should no longer provide the Executive Branch with a blank check for future military action there. That does not mean that the President could not seek Congressional authorization for future military action in Iraq or, if the conditions apply, exercise his constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief. However, I supported the amendment to prohibit the use of funds in this bill for combat operations in Iraq because I don't think there is a sound case for putting American troops in combat and, in the absence of such a limitation, there is no check on the unlimited use of force in Iraq given the current 2002 authorization to use force there.

Finally, I want to say a word about the Gosar Amendment. This amendment was a blatant effort to exploit fear and misunderstanding. There is no intention to provide Iran, Syria, Hamas, or ISIS with any military assistance. I would strongly oppose any such move. However, the United States, with the support of the State of Israel, has at times provided different forms of assistance to the Palestinian Authority to enhance security and fight terrorism. By including the Palestinian Authority in the list of entities that should be prohibited from receiving assistance, the amendment was an obvious example of what is known around here as a ''gotya'' amendment. It is time to stop playing those political games.

It is my hope that many of my objections to the Defense Appropriations bill will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer my strong support for the Autism CARES Act of 2014, a bill that continues the much-needed research and educational activities related to autism. I strongly support our nation's autistic community; this bill helps to promote and facilitate the good work being done related to autism by federal entities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. Autism is a disorder that has a tremendous effect on the lives of the people with it and their families, including challenges with education, communication, and employment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies autism as one of our nation's leading public health crises. An autism-related diagnosis is more common today than the diagnosis of pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. More research on this complex neurobiological disorder is still needed because we do not fully understand the cause or course of this disorder.

The Autism CARES Act of 2014 will facilitate autism research by reauthorizing $190 million annually through 2019. In addition, it focuses attention on the important issue of transitioning autistic youth from school to adulthood. I have heard from constituents with autism about the need to improve the transition of services to consider life after high school graduation to ensure that students are supported as they move to work or higher education. I am well aware of the benefits of services and research dedicated to autism. I am proud that Chicago is home to the Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research run by the Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago. The Center provides care and advances research on autism. It provides multiple services—research, training, early intervention, school-to-work transition training, and independent living training—all under one roof. It is an amazing resource for Chicago, Illinois, and

the nation. I strongly support this program and any federal efforts to support and expand these services. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Autism CARES Act of 2014.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, to move the process forward and support U.S. energy independence and security, although I remain strongly opposed to one provision included in this bill.

This concerning provision was drawn from an amendment to H.R. 1965, the Federal Lands, Jobs, and Energy Security Act, which I opposed, and would call for the Secretary of the Interior to develop plans to allow for the construction of new power lines ''across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need.'' Some may consider this to be noncontroversial, but I have fought the impact of similar language for a number of years. I am privileged to represent Virginia's ''hallowed grounds,'' where so many important events and battles in American history took place, and I simply cannot support efforts to construct new power lines through our area—particularly power lines that would ship energy to other parts of the country. That's why I opposed PATH and why I opposed TrAIL. Cedar Creek and Bell Grove National Historic Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park are just a few areas in our region that could be impacted by this provision.

While my vote reflects my support for the other elements in this energy security bill, I will not be able to support any conferenced final bill if it contains this troubling provision.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, in the absence of fresh ideas for the American people, the Republican majority is turning back to old ones and repackaging legislation that has already passed the House for another vote. It may have a nice name, but this bill contains the same unnecessary, irresponsible giveaways to Big Oil at the expense of American taxpayers.

Today's bill would dramatically expand drilling on public lands and offshore, limiting public input into those lease sales and prioritizing drilling above all other uses, including hunting, fishing, and recreation. It undermines the existing procedures that ensure safe and responsible operations, effectively giving oil companies a blank check without appropriate safeguards.

This bill is unnecessary. Oil production in the United States is already at a 25-year high and net oil imports are at a 29-year low. We are already the world's top natural gas producer. This bill will not reduce energy prices or increase energy security. We should not give away our taxpayer-owned natural resources to already-profitable big oil companies. I urge a no vote.

HONORING THE TOWN OF NEWPORT, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Newport, Maine, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Located on the western boundary of Penobscot County, Newport is a town steeped in the history of Maine and known best for the bounty of its farms and fields. First known as East Pond Plantation, Newport was settled in 1800 and incorporated as the 208th town in the District of Maine on June 14, 1814. Like many Maine towns, it grew from a small farming village into a prospering mill town by harnessing the power of the east branch of the Sebasticook River, and aided by the extension of the Maine Central Railroad.

On Monday, the people of Newport will begin a week-long celebration of the bicentennial of their town, filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled those first residents who first petitioned to have their community recognized. The residents of Newport embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine and can take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 200 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Newport in Congress and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the Town celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Newport and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

H.R. 4902, THE MIDDLE CLASS CHANCE ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight H.R. 4902, the Middle Class CHANCE Act, which I was proud to introduce last week.

As a Pell Grant recipient myself, I know that every dollar counts when you're trying to put yourself through college.

In our changing economy, today's college student is not necessarily full-time, living on campus, or between the ages of 18 and 22. Today's student is struggling to finish in four years, and today's student is averaging nearly $30,000 in student loan debt.

That is why I am proud to have introduced the Middle Class CHANCE Act which will increase access to higher education for all our students by restoring the strength and length of the Pell Grant.

We argue that sensible solutions to our economic difficulties are essential to prevent this burden from passing on to our future generations. But let's take a look around; our future generations have already inherited the burden.

We cannot rebuild our economy when we do so at the expense of our future generations and the American dream of completing a post-secondary education.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Middle Class CHANCE Act and make college more affordable and accessible for today's student.

CONGRATULATING KAREN L. PALLANSCH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen L. Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, on her election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Alexandria Renew is an independent government agency providing wastewater treatment services to the City of Alexandria and portions of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Beyond her wealth of environmental and engineering experience, I commend Ms. Pallansch for embracing a collaborative approach to watershed-based solutions that have garnered broad support among the public, business, elected officials, regulators and policymakers.

Ms. Pallansch is also a staunch and effective advocate for investing in our nation's aging and often deteriorating water infrastructure—investments that convey both environmental and economic benefits and help communities across our great nation to grow and thrive. Ms. Pallansch believes—as I do—that great communities need and deserve great water infrastructure and great quality water.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the former Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)—the precursor to Alexandria Renew—Karen presided over the completion of the Authority's

awarding-winning Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility that led the way in meeting the gold standard for removing nitrogen—one of the culprits behind the declining health of the Chesapeake Bay. Always seeking to be a good neighbor, ASA put much of the facility underground so as not to detract from the City's beauty and bring an Old Town look to the business of water protection.

When more stringent federal rules came along, Ms. Pallansch, working closely with her dedicated Board and staff, embarked on a massive State-of-the-Art Nitrogen Upgrade Program (SANUP) from which emerged the reimagining of what a wastewater treatment facility could be.

More than having cutting-edge technology, the facility she manages offers community-friendly features, including a regulation soccer field open to the public on top of an 18 million gallon treatment system. Alexandria Renew is moving down a bold new path to greater sustainability, helping to build greener, more sustainable communities, and creating in her agency "a utility of the future."

To reflect this broader enterprise, on Earth Day 2012, Ms. Pallansch announced that the Alexandria Sanitation Authority would be re-branded as Alexandria Renew Enterprises—the community's resource recovery center. The promise and synergy of this change are already being seen in a successful public–developer partnership that will create a vibrant new neighborhood from a dusty industrial area that was once an unregulated landfill for the City.

Ms. Pallansch has a long and distinguished career in the water reclamation field. She began as a staff engineer, rising to several senior positions before accepting position of CEO where she is now responsible for a $40 million operating budget and a $220 million capital improvement plan.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Karen Pallansch on her election as President of NACWA. As with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, I am sure she will lead the organization down a road marked by innovation, collaboration, progress and success. I wish her and NACWA the very best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DALE MORRIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director for American/American Eagle Airlines. Mr. Morris served a total of 27 years at American Airlines, including his early years as a protégé to former Chairman, President and CEO of American Airlines, Gerard J. Arpey. As he enters retirement, it is fitting that this body honors Mr. Morris and his illustrious career, given his personal and professional successes.

Mr. Morris was raised in Fresno, California, where he studied Journalism and Public Relations at Fresno State University. He maintained a firm connection to his roots as past president and current special advisor to the Fresno State Track & Field Commission. Among his various accolades, he is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Beta 311 Chapter.

In his role at American Airlines, Mr. Morris had the ability to navigate various legislative and regulatory obstacles to effectively advocate for American Airlines, thereby keeping American citizens and American skies safe. Over several decades, he has worked extensively with members of Congress, the White House, and the Department of State, always with the utmost integrity and trustworthiness.

Mr. Speaker, with Mr. Morris' leadership, officials at all levels of government made critical policy decisions that have improved the Nation's airports and many Americans' traveling experiences. I recognize Mr. Morris as a great American who has devoted his career to assisting those in public service and congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE TRACEY L. PINSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and outstanding servant of humankind, the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson, Director for the Office of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army, and the highest-ranking female civilian in the Army acquisition career field. Ms. Pinson has excelled at this position since her first day as director in May 1995. She will be retiring on Monday, June 30, 2014.

A Washington, D.C. native, Ms. Pinson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Howard University in 1978 and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1982. Her career began on Capitol Hill on the House Committee on Small Business under Chairman Parren Mitchell. Rep. Mitchell, of Maryland's Seventh Congressional District, was known as the "godfather" of minority business expansion and development efforts.

In 1986, Ms. Pinson was named as Assistant to the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 1995, Ms. Pinson was appointed the Director of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. She manages the largest small business program in the federal government in terms of dollars. Under her leadership, the Army has awarded over $300 billion in contracts to small businesses.

Ms. Pinson manages the Army Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions Program and ensures these institutions are afforded an opportunity to participate in Army-funded programs. Under her leadership, over $100 billion in Army awards have gone to HBCUs/MIs. She also headed an initiative to hire wounded warriors in her office. With their help, she has been able to steer over $50 billion to veteran-owned businesses. She has also worked to secure contract awards for women-owned businesses, companies located in areas of economic distress, and small businesses in disaster relief efforts.

Throughout her career, Ms. Pinson has received numerous awards and accolades, including the Department of the Army Award—Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service in 1998; the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 2002 and for Distinguished Executive in 2009; and the Department of the Army Award for Meritorious Civilian Service in 2014.

Ms. Pinson's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in government, Ms. Pinson has served on a number of boards and commissions, most notably on the Board of Directors of the African American Federal Executive Association.

Ms. Pinson has dedicated her career to advocating for disadvantaged small business owners. Because of her efforts, thousands of these small business owners have received contract awards to stimulate their businesses, create jobs and contribute to the economy. Indeed, Ms. Pinson has been a champion for small businesses across the nation and I am so grateful for the role she has played in upholding the American dream for thousands of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson upon the occasion of her retirement from a stellar career of 32 years of service in the federal government and nearly 20 years as Director for the Office of Small Business Programs for the Secretary of the Army.

TRIBUTE TO DAN WALTERS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of the Inland Empire are exceptional. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and devoted community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Dan Walters is one of these individuals. Today I would like to recognize Dan Walters, who will be retiring from the position of District Director of The National Exchange Club after fifteen years of continuous volunteer service to the California and Nevada districts.

The National Exchange Club holds three core values dear to their mission of service: a commitment to family, a commitment to the community, and a commitment to country. Dan has embodied these three attributes during his fifteen years of service to his organization, and as a dynamic and effective leader, he has encouraged many others to do so as well.

Some of Dan's primary work with the National Exchange Club has involved working to prevent child abuse through education and fundraising activities nationwide. Among other important roles, The National Exchange Club recognizes those who uphold the ideals and institutions of their community; including law enforcement and fire department officers, school teachers, and students of the month, to name a few. Dan and his organization have also championed the installation of Freedom

Shrines in our junior and senior high schools nationwide. These Shrines serve to inspire our nation's youth and are just another example of Dan's, and The National Exchange Club's, commitment to strengthening America's civic society and promoting American patriotism.

Dan's tireless efforts have not gone by unnoticed. In 2010, Dan was awarded the high honor of the National Exchange Club's Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his tenure with the National Exchange Club, Dan also received additional awards and letters of commendation from the National Exchange Club's Directors and District Executive Directors for his dedication to making our communities better places to live.

Dan's passion and dedication to the Exchange Club's efforts have been, and will continue to be, an inspiration throughout the community. He has been the heart and soul of many projects within our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many in our region are grateful for his service and I congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 339 and 340, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

RECOGNIZING PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of Pioneer Middle School in Yorkshire, New York. The school was recently designated a ''School to Watch'' by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Pioneer Middle School was one of only 118 schools from across the country to receive this outstanding distinction.

The Forum uses rigorous criteria of requirements and achievements to select the recipients of this highly esteemed honor. Academic performance, developmental responsiveness, and social equity are among the factors used to grade each school. Schools that receive this prestigious distinction must display a strong ''sense of purpose'' and maintain a ''trajectory toward excellence.'' Pioneer Middle School continually meets and exceeds each of these requirements and it shows in the students and their mentors.

Earning this award speaks to the dedication of the administration and faculty to providing students with the highest level of academic excellence. I would like to specifically recognize the principal of Pioneer Middle School, Melissa Prorok, for going above and beyond in facilitating a positive academic experience for each student.

Once again, I commend Pioneer Middle School on this notable achievement. I am confident that the excellence displayed by the teachers and administrators will continue to develop strong academic foundations for their students, paving the way for them to achieve success throughout their academic careers. I am proud of the positive impact this school is making on students and its community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. GRICE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher A. Grice, a true American hero. His achievements are shining examples of dedication and loyalty to the state of Kentucky, and his country.

Colonel Grice was originally commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) as a Distinguished Military Graduate after graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University. Colonel Grice continued his education by later earning a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Webster University.

His military career as a commissioned officer began as the Battalion Chemical Officer of the 1st Battalion in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he also served as a Support Platoon Leader. Colonel Grice led the Blue Grass Chemical Activity's workforce through the Rocket Separation Operation. The operation was deemed successful due to Colonel Grice's commitment to safety and stakeholder involvement. Perhaps Colonel Grice's greatest attribute is his leadership abilities. After facing a government shutdown and a moratorium on hiring during his command, Colonel Grice's ability to maintain a high morale while meeting all regulatory requirements is truly admirable.

Several military decorations Colonel Grice has received throughout his impressive career including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. These awards are only a small testament to Colonel Grice's service to our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Colonel Christopher A. Grice on his life of superior excellence, service and loyalty. His service to the state of Kentucky is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing what Colonel Grice accomplishes in the future. I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to Colonel Grice for all that he has done for the United States military, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 356, I was away from the House floor and intended to vote ''aye.''

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 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 $17,545,861,055,228.61. We've added $6,918,984,006,315.53 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHARLES ''CHUCK'' LIONEL FRANKLIN, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader, caring physician, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Dr. Charles ''Chuck'' Lionel Franklin, Jr. Dr. Franklin departed to his eternal reward on Monday, June 2, 2014. A funeral service was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of mourners were present to pay tribute to Dr. Franklin's honorable life and legacy.

Dr. Franklin was born on April 5, 1946, and was raised in Washington, D.C. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Franklin exemplified the meaning of being a servant leader. He began at Howard University, where he never missed an opportunity to engage in causes that promoted justice and equality. Even as an alumnus, his commitment to the university remained one of his greatest causes. He advocated the D.C. Metro bus system to change the name of the bus stop for Howard's campus from ''LeDroit Park'' to ''Howard University'' to recognize the university's status in the same way that other prominent colleges were recognized. Also, as a result of his advocacy on behalf of his beloved alma mater and black college football, the Washington media began publishing the scores and highlights of black college sports in mainstream sports news stories. Dr. Franklin shared Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that, ''Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.''

In 1976, Dr. Franklin expanded his repertoire of servant leadership by opening his Family Medicine practice in Silver Spring, Maryland, with medical privileges at area hospitals. Dr. Franklin practiced medicine for 35 years, focusing on patient advocacy. He worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Franklin is his steadfast commitment to his family and his faith. I became fond of Dr. Franklin through his wife, the former Alexis Margaret Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, and a lifelong friend of mine. As big brother to Dolores and Estelle, dad to

Sharath, Michelle and young Chuck, grandfather to Brian and David, and inspiration to extended family and countless friends, Chuck spared no effort in sharing himself to the fullest. Moreover, as husband, there was no limit to his love for Alexis! But above all, Dr. Franklin loved his Savior. Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he was often called "the praying doctor" because he not only gave his patients medical hope but he also prayed with them for spiritual help and healing.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Dr. Franklin went far in life because his loving personality brought warmth to all whom he encountered. A man of integrity and high moral values, his understanding, compassion and kindness made him a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Dr. Charles "Chuck" Franklin, Jr. for his dedication to serving others, his passion for promoting equality among individuals from different walks of life, and his deep commitment to his family and his faith. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Franklin's family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING CHAD CLARK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Chad Clark of Floresville, Texas—a well-known and respected law enforcement officer.

Mr. Clark's story was truly one of hard work and dedication, having climbed his way from the position of nonpaid reserve officer all the way to lieutenant. The nearly 22 years of service Chad Clark gave to the Floresville Police Department is the second-longest stint in the department's history.

In 1989, while Mr. Clark was working in a local convenience store, he struck up a friendship with a Floresville PD officer. This new friendship sparked Chad's interest in a career in law enforcement and he soon enrolled in police academy in San Antonio. After working in the Poteet Police Department for two years, Chad Clark returned to Floresville to begin his more than 20 year term of service in the Floresville Police Department.

Five years into his career, he was promoted to corporal. In 2001, while working as the day-shift supervisor, Mr. Clark was promoted to detective, where he investigated a wide variety of crimes.

In 2012, Chad Clark reached the level of lieutenant within the Floresville Police Department. That same year, he was elected as the Wilson County Precinct 2 constable. He served admirably in both capacities and will be missed dearly by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Described by those he worked with, Mr. Clark was a kind-hearted, generous man who came into work with a positive outlook that was infectious.

Aside from his exemplary career in law enforcement, Chad Clark had served on the boards for the Wilson County Friends of the Library as well as the Floresville Independent School District. Mr. Clark is survived by his two daughters, 21-year-old Kayla and 17-year-old Marah.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Chad Clark. His hard work and positive attitude have truly impacted many lives and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMSTOCK'S MAGAZINE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Comstock's magazine as the publication celebrates its 25th anniversary. For a quarter century, this magazine has shared timely and significant insights into the Sacramento region's business climate with thousands of readers. As Comstock's staff, business partners and readers gather to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Comstock's magazine and its special place in Sacramento's business community.

Comstock's magazine is the brainchild of my friend and businesswoman, Winnie Comstock. I have had the pleasure of knowing Winnie for many years; we first met while folding clothes at the annual Junior League rummage sale. She has always displayed a true passion for telling Sacramento's story and has succeeded beyond belief with Comstock's magazine.

The first issue of Comstock's was published in July of 1989 and the magazine has thrived ever since. The magazine has created a forum for coverage of ideas that celebrate the region, while never shying away from addressing what the region must do to succeed. On issues from water to transportation, and banking to education, each month Comstock's leaves over 85,000 readers with a better understanding of the topics that define the Sacramento region.

Comstock's magazine reporting has earned multiple "Maggie Awards," which includes twice being named the Best Business Consumer Magazine in the Western United States by the Western Publishers Association, as well as numerous national awards from the American Association of Business Publication Editors.

Since its founding in 1989, the world has dramatically changed, and Comstock's has changed with it. The magazine is now a true multi-platform media company, with a stellar website and a number of social media outlets, all in addition to their print edition. It also was one of the first magazines in the country to develop a digital edition and iPad app.

Finally, Comstock's magazine has never forgotten that is does not just report on the Sacramento region, but that they are also a key part of it. They offer complimentary advertising and coverage to a number of nonprofits and charities, while also publishing an annual "Capital Region Cares" edition that spotlights the region's nonprofit community. Winnie and her colleagues have also supported a number of economic development efforts and have worked closely with the area's Chambers of Commerce and economic development organizations, such as SACTO, SARTA, and Valley Vision.

Mr. Speaker, as the staff, advertisers and readers of Comstock's come together to celebrate the magazine's 25th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their fine reporting and work that has helped define the Sacramento Region. I am confident that the magazine will continue to thrive in the years to come.

HONORING VIRGINIA INGRAM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who is an inspiration to many Brooklynites and New Yorkers. This Saturday, Virginia Ingram will turn 100 years old, an impressive feat that deserves our recognition and celebration.

Virginia Ingram was born on June 27, 1914 in Lynchburg, VA. The fifth child born to Charles and Alda Wilson, Virginia was raised on a large farm with her siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Growing up in a relatively rural area during the early 20th century, she's been known to tell stories related to her love of the outdoors. As a young woman, Mrs. Ingram would often accompany her father on a horse and buggy to chop wood for the fire.

Like so many others of her generation, Mrs. Ingram eventually migrated from the south to a northern city—New York. Coming to New York in 1930, she began a career working various seamstress jobs. Notably, during World War II, she helped make Mae West Jackets, the floatation devices that saved the lives of American fighter pilots.

After the war, in 1946, she met and married the late Lacey C. Ingram. Virginia and Lacey moved to the Red Hook projects at 811 Hicks Street in 1951. Together, they had two children and two stepdaughters. Today, she enjoys seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren who have further enriched her life.

Eventually, Mrs. Ingram moved to 80 Dwight Street, where she has been a Red Hook resident for over 60 years. It was there that she met the late Reverend and Mrs. McBride, founders of New Brown Memorial Baptist Church. A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Ingram was one of the original parishioners at the church. In the early days, Sunday Service was held in Rev. McBride's apartment. Sunday School was held in various church members' apartments. Mrs. Ingram has loving memories of those years and everyone who helped build the church.

In 1979, Mrs. Ingram went to Bible School, later becoming a Missionary. With the support and blessing of the late Rev. Truitte, she remained dedicated to this calling. She was a missionary for many years, working alongside many dynamic women before serving under Reverend Reid as a Deaconess.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ingram's story is an impressive one—and the local community of Red Hook is a richer place because of her many kind contributions. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her on the advent of her 100th birthday and wishing her many blessings.

HIV TESTING DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to National HIV Testing Day, which takes place on June 27. This day serves as an important opportunity to urge everyone to get tested. I would like to thank all of the advocates, care coordinators, and healthcare providers, both in my community and around the country, for their tireless work in serving the HIV-positive community and raising awareness of HIV issues more generally.

There are over one million people of all ages, ethnicities, and sexual orientations in the United States living with the HIV virus, and South Florida has one of the highest HIV infection rates in the country. Sadly, nearly one in six HIV-positive individuals do not know that they are infected, which means that they could be unknowingly spreading the virus. We simply must close this gap so that we may improve health outcomes for those living with HIV and protect against future infections.

HIV does not discriminate—it impacts people old and young, gay and straight, and of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. To highlight this critical issue, I will be hosting a call to action in my district. I hope that everyone will take this opportunity to get tested for HIV and to ask their friends and family to do the same.

Again I would like to thank the advocates, care coordinators and healthcare providers in South Florida and around the country for their tireless work in preventing, detecting, and treating HIV. I wish them the best as they pursue this daunting but important endeavor.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. NEVIN, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Edward J. Nevin, Jr., on the great occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ed Nevin was born on August 26, 1914, at 15th and Harrison in the South of Market District of San Francisco. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in his beloved City of Saint Francis, and went on to graduate from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

A passion for civic duty and a commitment to his community led Ed to a 34-year career in the San Francisco Police Department, where he served with distinction in several important positions. He was the Chief of the Chinatown Detail, Director of Special Services (Vice Squad), Commander of the San Francisco Housing Authority Police, and Chief of San Francisco International Airport Police.

While Ed takes enormous pride in protecting the people of San Francisco, he has always considered his greatest accomplishment to be his family. He was married to Mazie McDermott Nevin for 70 years until her passing in 2009. Together they had seven children: Virginia, Edward III, Michael, Katherine, James, Margaret Mary, and Eileen; 22 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren.

Ed and Mazie were deeply rooted in their Catholic faith, a guiding light that called them into selfless service to their community. They were longtime leaders in support of Catholic married couples and services for youth, and Ed was a recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Lifelong residents of the Bay Area, Ed and Mazie lived in San Francisco, Glen Ellen, San Ramon, and at The Magnolia in Millbrae.

On August 26, 2014, Ed's family and friends will honor him on the blessed occasion of his 100th birthday with a celebration at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Edward J. Nevin on his 100th birthday. He is a faith-filled family man who is revered by his colleagues, admired by the people he served, and beloved by his family. I am privileged to have known the Nevin family for many years and shared a beautiful friendship with their late son, Mike, a devoted and beloved public servant, and their daughter Margie and her husband, Patrick Johnston. Ed Nevin stands as a paragon of integrity and decency. He has strengthened his community and his country throughout a life filled with faith and raised an extraordinary family that continues to live the Nevin values. Our nation has been immensely bettered by Ed Nevin in countless ways over an entire American century, and we pay tribute to this great and good man who exemplifies the very best of America.

5TH BIRTHDAY AND BEYOND

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commemorate the United States' role in preventing the death of millions of children under the age of five across the world. In a country where talk of a child's fifth birthday elicits happy memories of time spent with family and friends, we too often forget that in regions across the globe, many children never make it to their fifth birthday. Thanks to the support and generosity of the American people, U.S. aid programs have helped cut the number of child deaths, under the age of five, in half since 1990.

The devastating and deadly effects of diseases like pneumonia, measles and malaria have been largely curbed across the globe with the support of Americans. These monumental advances are allowing millions more children to live the healthy, happy childhood that all kids deserve. It is important we recognize these advancements and honor the dedication and work of those that have made them possible. We must also continue to support efforts to improve children's lives around the world and redouble our efforts and commitment to children's health. It is my sincere hope the progress achieved by 5th Birthday and Beyond continues, and we can make this a world where no child unnecessarily suffers from, or ultimately succumbs to, a preventable or treatable illness.

HONORING VETERAN CURTIS ALLRED

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Curtis Allred of Missouri's 8th Congressional District for his achievement, and commitment to serving our country.

Curtis enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating High School at the age of 17 in order to serve his country in Iraq. After boot camp and SOI training he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, which is a battalion-level infantry unit composed of infantry Marines and support personnel. In February of 2004 his battalion was deployed in Iraq and was a part of the initial invasion of Fallujah.

After his tour in Iraq, Curtis helped train new Marines for combat until he retired in 2007. The battalion which Curtis was a part of was the most deployed battalion in the Iraq War.

At a young age Curtis Allred showed an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives. I wish him all the joys in life he so rightfully has earned.

HONORING MR. CHARLES HENRY ''CHUCK'' NOLL, OF SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor the memory of Mr. Charles Henry "Chuck" Noll of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Mr. Noll passed away on June, 13, 2014 at the age of 82. Chuck Noll was born in Cleveland on January 5, 1932, but he will be remembered best in Pittsburgh: the city that he transformed through his legendary coaching of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

A Pro Football Hall of Famer, Mr. Noll led the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl championships in twenty-three seasons. He holds the record of being the only coach to win four Super Bowl trophies, a feat the team accomplished between 1975 and 1980.

This achievement did not come without perseverance. Mr. Noll began his football career as a linebacker and guard for the Cleveland Browns, where he played until he retired at twenty-seven. He then dedicated his life to coaching, eventually becoming the then youngest head coach in NFL history when the Steelers hired him on January 27, 1969. Steelers President Art Rooney II said, "He set a

new standard for the Steelers that still is the foundation of what we do and who we are. From the players to the coaches to the front office down to the ball boys, he taught us all what it took to be a winner.''

At just thirty-seven years old, Mr. Noll turned the struggling franchise into an unbeatable powerhouse, leading the team to their first playoff appearance in thirty-nine years in 1972. Two years later, Mr. Noll took the team even further, winning the team's first Super Bowl in a classic against the Minnesota Vikings.

The ''City of Champions'' would not be what it is today without Mr. Noll. Former Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann said, ''He built a foundation . . . This entire organization will be a part of his legacy.''

Mr. Noll's passion and love of coaching and contributions will always be remembered by the Steelers, by Western Pennsylvanians, and by all members of ''Steelers Nation.''

Chuck Noll was so much more than a coach. He was a licensed pilot and sailor, played musical instruments, spoke French, and was well versed in cooking, gardening, and home repairs. Team members would often try to find topics that Mr. Noll did not know about, almost always to no avail. Mr. Noll once said that he would have been a history teacher if not a football coach, but by making the football field his classroom, he in a sense fulfilled both these careers.

Perhaps what Mr. Noll was best at was bringing people together and being a source of encouragement. He focused on building a sense of family among the team; he taught players the importance of sacrifice, humility, and winning both on and off the field. He never ceased to remind players that their actions today would affect tomorrow, a mentality that made him a role model for everyone.

Bishop David Zubik said, ''Let's learn this lesson from coach. That we should all recognize what we can be, recognize what we are capable of doing and encourage other people to be their best. That's greatness. And that's why today we thank God for the coach.''

We are pleased to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest football coaches, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

SGT. TAHMOORESSI

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, who is currently in jail in Mexico. I urge the government of Mexico to bring his case to trial and do all that they can to ensure he comes home safely and quickly.

Mr. Tahmooressi has nobly served our country during war. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan including winning a combat field promotion to Sergeant in Helmand Province. He was honorably discharged in 2012, but remains on reserve duty until 2016. According to his family, he suffers from severe PTSD and had traveled from our hometown of Weston to California to seek treatment from a VA facility there. But he is currently in trouble and needs our assistance.

Andrew was arrested on April 1st of this year in Tijuana, Mexico after crossing the border with several firearms in his automobile as well as ammunition for these weapons. He was then charged with possessing firearms and ammunition in violation of Mexican law. Andrew, according to his signed statement, was traveling to visit a friend near the Mexican border on the night of April 1 when he made a wrong turn and accidentally crossed the border into Mexico. It is also our understanding that the weapons in his possession at that time were purchased legally in the United States.

After being held for two days in temporary holding, Andrew was transferred to La Mesa Penitentiary. Since his incarceration, Andrew has continued to suffer from PTSD.

Yesterday I spoke to Andrew's mother Jill. As a mother, my heart goes out to her, her family and Andrew during this scary and uncertain time. As a fellow mother, her neighbor and her Representative, I committed to Jill that I will continue to do all that I can to bring Andrew home.

I have raised Andrew and his situation personally with Vice President JOE BIDEN and with Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina Mora. I commend the State Department for their efforts to ensure that Andrew is being treated humanely by Mexican authorities, and for their efforts in helping secure an attorney for Andrew. My staff and I have been in regular contact with the State Department since Andrew's arrest.

I call on Mexican government officials, specifically the Attorney General of Mexico to ensure that Andrew's case moves as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to work collaboratively to find productive ways to bring Andrew home. There is absolutely no reason this important endeavor should be a partisan exercise.

HONORING EVELYN GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Evelyn Gross who died on June 18th in Plano, Texas at the age of 92 after a long battle with lung cancer.

Evelyn Gross was the mother of Alan Gross, the subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, who has been imprisoned in Cuba for the last four and a half years for working to increase Internet access for Cuba's small Jewish community.

Evelyn Gross's last wish was to see her son before she died, but despite repeated pleas for a humanitarian furlough to visit her, the Cuban officials refused to grant Alan's request to do so.

As the end of her life approached, in a fit of desperation, Alan went on a hunger strike to protest the failure of both governments to resolve this issue and free him. At his mother's urging, Alan stopped the hunger strike after nine days.

Judy Gross, Alan's wife said that the death of Evelyn Gross was a devastating blow to Alan, who was extremely close to his mother and was already in a fragile state.

Before his arrest, Alan spoke to her twice a day by phone. We are all very worried about how he is coping with her death.

Judy Gross fears that her husband will sink deeper into depression and give up all hope of ever coming home.

She worries that the pain of not being able to see his mother before her passing could start Alan down a dangerous path of destructive behavior.

Before the death of Evelyn Gross, many of Alan's friends had already grown deeply concerned about Alan's physical and emotional well being.

Alan lives confined in a small prison cell 23 hours a day with two other inmates. Until recently, prison officials kept the lights on in the cell 24 hours a day.

Weakened by the prospect of having to serve out a 15-year prison sentence under these conditions, Alan's health and emotional state have suffered. He has lost over 100 pounds, he suffers from chronic pain, and his loss of hope and increasing despondency have caused those who love him to fear that he is at risk of losing his will to live.

When Alan turned 65 last month, he swore that it would be his last birthday in prison. He said he was determined to come home, alive or dead.

I am taking the floor today to urge the Government of Cuba to free Alan Gross and for President Obama to do everything he can to obtain his release.

I fear for what might happen if nothing is done soon to free Alan Gross.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMANDO J. MORA, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I along with Rep. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ rise to honor the life of Armando J. Mora, Jr., a Santa Fe Springs City fireman who died of service related cancer on June 18th, 2014.

Mr. Mora was raised in Santa Fe Springs and was proud to serve in the Fire Department of the city he loved. Mr. Mora came from a very distinguished family who have committed their lives to public service in Santa Fe Springs. His father Armando Mora Sr. served on the City Council and was Mayor, and his brother Robert also serves in the Fire Department and is President of Local 3507 of the firefighter's union.

Armando J. Mora, Jr. began his career in the fire service of the City of West Covina and was hired by the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department on January 20, 1981. He served with distinction for 33 years as a firefighter, and was known as an extraordinary man of great character and generosity to all in our community. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Mora because he knew the danger he faced every day on the job, but would not be deterred from his duties in protecting the people of our region.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Mora's mother Alicia Mora, his loving and devoted wife Georgina Mora, his two children, Lauren and Anthony, stepson Jesse, two sisters Annie and Irene, his brother Robert, and to the extended Mora family and friends, including his brave brothers and sisters in the

Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

IN HONOR OF FORMER ALBANY CHIEF OF POLICE WASHINGTON LONG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, Mr. Washington Long, the first black Police Chief in the history of Albany, Georgia. Sadly, Chief Long died on Thursday, June 19, 2014. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia with interment following at Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Long was born in Marianna, Florida. He enlisted in the United States Army at an early age, before transferring to the Air Force. While stationed at Turner Air Force Base in Albany, he met then Albany Police Department Chief Laurie Pritchett. Chief Pritchett saw potential in Mr. Long and asked him to join the force if Chief Pritchett could convince the commissioners to hire black police officers. Mr. Long made up his mind to join the Police Department when he was stopped by a police officer in downtown Albany, where racial strife was profuse in the years following the Albany Movement, a part of the greater Civil Rights Movement. He believed he could be a better police officer than the one who stopped him and so in 1966, Mr. Long became one of the city's first black police officers.

In the police department, Mr. Long rose through the ranks of Corporal, Detective, Captain, Major and Assistant Chief. In 1987, Mr. Long was named Chief of the Albany Police Department, becoming the city's first black police chief. He held this post until he retired in 1994.

During his nearly thirty-year career with the Albany Police Department, Chief Long served the citizens of Albany, Georgia with devotion and distinction. Responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of the residents of Albany, Chief Long proved to be a strong and revered leader. A great number of challenges came with a position of this caliber, exacerbated by the lingering effects of segregation and racial tension. Chief Long met these challenges head-on with steadfast humility and strong moral fiber.

Chief Long was a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church for over fifty years and served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of numerous community organizations, the most notable being the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Albany—East Albany Unit. He sponsored the membership for many children over the years so that they could have a support system in the community to encourage them to realize their full potential.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, ''Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.'' Chief Long's life was defined by service. He paid his rent and he paid it well through his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for the people of Albany. He will truly be missed.

Chief Long is survived by his daughter, Lisa; son, Ronald; and siblings Gertrude, Coriel, Paul, William, Frederick and Mariah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to Chief Washington Long and his legacy of service to Albany, Georgia. He loved the people of Albany and he was committed to making the community safer to live in and to improving the quality of life. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN SUPPORT OF VOTING RIGHTS AND THE VOTER RIGHTS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the right of all Americans to vote without fear of discrimination, no matter their race, color, or political beliefs.

In 1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act. The enactment of VRA fulfilled a century of work towards guaranteeing that our most fundamental right—the right to vote—would be protected for all Americans, including in states and local jurisdictions that had historically denied or disempowered minority voters.

The protections provided in VRA ensure that historically disenfranchised communities in our country are now able to freely vote. The very chamber we stand in today is a reflection of the success of VRA, seen in the election of dozens of Members of Congress who come from these very communities.

A year ago today, however, the successes of VRA became endangered when the Supreme Court ruled in a controversial 5–4 decision that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Act, which had been used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional.

As a result of the Court's opinion in Shelby, the right to vote for millions of Americans, including my constituents in Houston and Harris County, are now endangered. Immediately after the high court's ruling, the State of Texas announced that it would put into immediate effect a voter ID law that had been previously blocked by a federal court because the state law's restrictions target the very communities that are meant to be protected under Section 5.

Congress must act. The right to vote for all is at the very heart of our democracy.

Bipartisan legislation, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, has been introduced in this Congress that would provide a new coverage formula based on current problems in voting and directly respond to the high court's concerns.

This is not perfect legislation, but it would go a long way towards restoring the protections that my constituents had before the Court's decision.

I urge my colleagues to bring the Voting Rights Amendment Act to a floor vote and ensure that our most sacred right—the right to vote—is protected for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE POUGH ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Oak Park, Illinois, Essie Pough, as she retires from the Illinois Department of Human Services after 46 years of public service to the state of Illinois and its citizens. On behalf of the 7th District of Illinois, I congratulate and commend Mrs. Pough for almost five decades of outstanding dedication to the state.

Mrs. Pough began her career when the agency was known as the Illinois Department of Public Aid. She has worked at multiple locations for the agency, providing the customers with professional assistance at each—whether she was in the Walcott office, the Madison office, or in Humboldt Park. As an example of her commitment to the public, Mrs. Pough started taking Spanish classes after moving to her Humboldt Park office which serves a large number of Illinoisans who speak Spanish. She worked at the Humboldt Park office for 30 years.

Although small in stature, Mrs. Pough has a dynamic and impressive personality that amazes her friends, family and co-workers. I also understand that she has a fondness for high heels, even starting her work day by walking up the stairs to her second floor office every day in 4-inch heels, which no doubt helps explain her health and fitness to this day. Mrs. Pough is a caring friend and coworker. Her propensity to routinely feed her colleagues makes me disappointed that I never had the opportunity to work with her. In addition, she regularly supported her coworkers' accomplishments with parties to recognize birthdays and promotions as well as led the annual Black History celebration.

Outside of work, Mrs. Pough is an avid bowler with an average of 133. Impressively, she has already bowled 200 twice this year alone. These scores are especially notable given her distinctive bowling stance, bowling while down on one knee. She is an active member of Living Word Christian Center where she adds her beautiful voice to the choir and shares her bowling talents with the bowling team.

In closing, I join with the friends of Essie Pough and her 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren in celebrating her retirement on April 30, 2014, after 46 years of public service. I recognize Mrs. Pough's dedication to her community and state as well as convey my deep appreciation for her service. I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mrs. Pough and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY N. TONSICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Anthony N. Tonsich, the son of Croatian immigrants and a native of San Pedro who passed away on June 19, 2014 with his loving family by his side.

Anthony always had an adventurous spirit. Whether he was sailing on his boat, Lady Bug II, or traveling around Europe, Anthony's life was constantly marked by movement. So it came as no surprise when Anthony developed a love for automobiles and spent over 45 years in the car business without ever taking a sick day over the course of his career.

Anthony will most fondly be remembered for the lasting impact that he had on his family, friends, and community. He enlisted in the Army and served as a drill instructor until 1952, helping new recruits become accustomed to military life. Yet Anthony's ability to lead by example did not end when he took off the uniform in 1952. He continued to inspire others through his generous spirit, warm personality, and extraordinary work ethic. He served as a role model for people in San Pedro, especially his eight beloved grandchildren and his three children: Anthony, Suzanne, and my dear friend Nick.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life and legacy of Anthony N. Tonsich.

THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in my district. The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) was created by the City of Alexandria under the authorization of Housing Authority Law, Chapter 1, Title 36 Code of Virginia, in 1939, for the express purpose of operating the Affordable Housing Program for low and moderate-income individuals in Alexandria. ARHA's goal is to provide citizens the ability to own a home or secure an affordable rental unit and improve the quality of life for all Alexandrians.

ARHA commenced operations in Alexandria, Virginia in 1941. They built their organization on a foundation that advocated the importance of providing safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing. They have grown into a stellar operation and are a leader in the development and management of mixed income housing in Alexandria. Home equity, housing security, and self-sufficiency are all important for Alexandrians to ensure a high quality of life. ARHA empowers its clients in these areas by providing an array of supportive services that give residents the opportunities needed to grow independently.

A healthy housing industry is important to the economic development of the City of Alexandria. It provides families with affordable housing opportunities and the chance to build equity while strengthening the tax base, creating jobs, and opening doors for further growth and development. Their continued partnerships between financial institutions and housing developers will continue to provide needed affordable housing opportunities for residents in Alexandria.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority for their outstanding work and contribution to our community.

MICHELLE WIE WINNING HER 1ST MAJOR

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a local Hawaii girl who has stormed the world stage of golf, and made our state proud as we have watched her grow and achieve. On Sunday, Honolulu-born Michelle Wie won the U.S. Women's Open, her first major in a long career that began on the lush golf courses of Oahu.

The daughter of South Korean immigrants, Michelle started golfing at age four and by age 10 became the youngest qualifier ever at the USGA Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. In 2007, she graduated from Punahou School on Oahu.

Whether pioneering her unique putting style or showing grace and determination under intense media spotlight and pressure, Michelle has shown she is an athlete beyond her years.

Michelle, the people of Hawaii are cheering you on as you take your career to the next level, and continue to represent our state and the aloha spirit! Congratulations!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN EDWARD BARBER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize John Edward Barber. John was born to Nancy and Robert Barber on December 3, 1972 in Winter Garden, Florida. John graduated from West Orange High School in 1991 after spending a year in Germany on a Congress-Bundestag Scholarship through AFS.

John then went on to study Political Science and Women's Studies at the University of South Florida, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1995. While in college, John and Sam Singhaus teamed up to perform as their drag characters, Tweeka Louise Weed and Miss Sammy, doing shows in Orlando and Tampa.

John moved to Miami's South Beach, then to Atlanta, before moving back to Orlando to attend cosmetology school. He built a faithful following as a hair stylist, working most recently at Vamp Hair Salon in Orlando's Thornton Park neighborhood. He was voted Favorite Local Hair Stylist in Watermark magazine's 2008 "Wave Awards".

He stayed active in politics, using his Tweeka Weed persona as a political and social commentator on radio station 106.7 FM (WXXL) during the 2008 elections. He was also a volunteer during Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's campaign and an active political fundraiser and supporter. John was also an advocate for HIV and AIDS awareness.

John was seldom without his sense of humor. He was a consummate entertainer wherever he was, whether it was talking to customers as he styled their hair or raising funds for a political candidate or charity.

John died Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, after a ten-month battle with cancer. He was just 38 years old.

John's legacy lives on in Orlando through The Barber Fund which he founded while undergoing intense cancer treatment. John touched many lives and will be remembered as someone who spent his time on Earth making our community a better and more beautiful place.

He is survived by his mother, Nancy Barber; his grandmother, Nancy Arnold; his sister, Nancy Barber; his sister and brother-in-law, Robin and Ron Branch, and their children, Ellie, Steve, and Bobby Branch; his aunt and uncle, Fran and Dan Arnold, Jr.; and his aunt, Carol Booth.

I am proud to honor the memory of John Edward Barber, during LGBT Pride Month.

CONGRATULATING VETERAN RON STOPPELMANN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate veteran Ron Stoppelmann and thank him for his service in the United States Army. Stoppelmann has shown his strength not only in the military, but also in his daily life.

Ron Stoppelmann, an artillery mechanic during the Vietnam War, was able to save countless lives when he controlled a fire that had begun after a propellant charge from an artillery round exploded and spread to an ammunition storage point. There was danger of the fire reaching other storage units which would have caused the detonation of ammunition as well as personal harm to staff at nearby facilities. At the risk of injury, he controlled the flames and prevented it from spreading further.

Due to his bravery, Stoppelmann has been recognized for several honors. Some of his achievements include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, and the Soldier's Medal for Heroism in a Non-Combat Situation.

Ron Stoppelmann has shown bravery and strength in many situations and I know those traits will continue to be with him in his future endeavors. I wish him all the best.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRADUATION OF AMERICAN STUDENTS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to the 2014 graduating class of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. They have all traveled a long way to earn Medical Doctorates in Havana, Cuba.

These dedicated doctors overcame immense hurdles to complete their medical educations. They not only had to face six years away from home, but also had to pursue their education in Spanish after attending a 12-week intensive language program. They had to complete their studies cut off from their families and uncertain about their futures due to the draconian Cuban embargo that continues to threaten this excellent program.

After a visit to Cuba in 2000, I was proud to have helped initiate the scholarship program, along with the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am also proud to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to bring access to healthcare back to those who need it most.

The 2014 graduating class includes 20 students from the United States, bringing the total of young physicians to 104 who are either completing residencies or practicing medicine in underserved areas of the United States. These students should be recognized not only for the many challenges they had to overcome, but also for their dedication to service.

The Cuban government devoted scholarships, covering tuition, dormitory room and board, and textbooks, to students from the United States who are willing to commit to serve in medically underserved communities. This expensive and humane gesture allows students, who might otherwise not have the resources to pursue medical degrees in the United States, to become doctors and to serve the uninsured and underinsured who too often fall through the cracks of our for-profit healthcare industry. It also reduces the concern that health care for all is not attainable because there are not enough doctors to meet the need.

It is my hope that what these doctors have achieved will not only bring desperately needed healthcare to the underserved, but will also serve as an example to the healthcare industry, the American people and the members of Congress, that healthcare is a basic human right, not a privilege.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute the graduates of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish and I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 44TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. TAOFI AND MASINAATOA MAGALEI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear sister and her loving husband on their 44th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei were married on June 27, 1970, and were later sealed in the Laie Hawaii Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for time and all eternity.

Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei are the proud parents of four children—Michele, Taofi Jr., Kristal, and Nainoa. They are also blessed with six beautiful grandchildren—Sanaa Filiaga, Tyler Magalei, Ariana Magalei, Michele Magalei, Eternity Filiaga, and Tre Magalei—and they expect more grandchildren to come.

Mr. Taofi Magalei, Sr. is now retired after working for more than 40 years with combined service at Continental Airlines, BYU-Hawaii, and the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie. Mrs. Masinaatoa Magalei is also now retired after working 23 years as a school teacher, counselor, and Vice Principal.

As they celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary, I wish my sister and her husband endless years of wedded bliss. I thank them for their love and support for all these years, and I convey my love to them and their family on this very special occasion. I pray that the Lord continues to bless them and their family forevermore.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY JUNKER

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional Navy scientist and civil servant. Dr. Bobby Junker, a native of San Antonio, TX, died June 14, 2014 after a long illness. Dr. Junker came to the Washington, DC area in 1977 after accepting a position with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), where he remained for his entire 37 year career. At the time of his retirement in May 2014, he served as Department Head for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance for ONR.

Dr. Junker was a 1965 alum of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, as well as the University of Texas at Austin, where he received both his Master's degree (1967) and Doctorate in Chemistry (1969). Among the numerous awards Dr. Junker received over his distinguished career, he has been awarded the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award twice (1985 and 2011), the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive three times (1989, 1999 and 2008) and the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive once (2003). He was also a life member of the American Physical Society, Sigma Xi and Senior Executives Association. He is most remembered as a visionary and brilliant leader in the field of science and technology. The Chief of Naval Research described Dr. Junker as a national treasure, both a trusted advisor and a dedicated star in the information sciences community.

More important than this distinguished service and his career honors, he was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather to his family as well as a leader, advisor and true friend to many. Dr. Junker is survived by his wife Ginnie Junker; children Evan Junker, Melissa Depew and Bryce Combs; stepchildren Daniel and Andy Katt; grandchildren Megan and Bryan Depew, Isabella Combs, and Riley and Holden Katt; and brother Eugene Junker.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Junker's family, as well as our continuing gratitude to individuals such as Dr. Junker willing to dedicate their lives to honorable service and an exceptional career devoted to defending the nation. He is a critical reminder to us all of the importance of our civil service workforce. We should never forget that while the military defends us all, it is our civil servants who work, often unseen and unrecognized, to support and defend our military.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE, A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HALL OF FAME THIRD BASEMEN BROOKS ROBINSON OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Ms. Speaker, I submit the following poem by Albert Carey Caswell.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE

On fields of green,
there is but one position seen!
Where, there's such hell to pay!
Because, third base is such the place . . .
Where only those of courage play!
That hot corner,
where on any pitch you're a goner . . .
As lasers come screaming at you every day!
Where with each and every pitch,
this could be it. ''D'' Day!
Because it's just the place,
where instincts and quickness and speed come into play!
Where, those faint of heart,
do not so wish to take stay!
And it takes a special man,
to command the courage to play!
With but only micro seconds to so react in time,
to stay intact and steal the game away!
Who said that crime does not pay?
Because in Baseball,
for stealing big bucks you will get paid!
And that's something that Brooks has done
both night and day!
ROBBING SOME,
THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE!
And with his glove and hi bat has done such harm!
Proving to all,
that in Baseball crime really does pay!
For he has pulled off many more heists in broad day light than Capone they say!
Yea, Brooks should be doing hard time . . .
for all those crimes of stealing hits so away!
For this is a story,
all about Arkansas glory . . .

But not of Presidential Glory or cheeseburgers hey!
Because, long before there was Mr. President Clinton, ''Bill''. . .
Brooks so owned that center stage!
Brooks Robbing Some,
The Man With The Golden HEART and GLOVE
Who history has so made!
Because upon these fields of green . . .
no greater third baseman has so been seen!
With his soft hands and cannon arm to win the day!
As he so took command on each and every play!
When, charging the bunt . . .
he was always on the hunt for that put out or double play!
With that bare hand grab,
as was his to have all in perfection's way!
An when all was so said and done,
his arm was so equipped with a golden gun . . .
Of the caliber from which he could throw lasers from!
And Brooksy Babe could even throw out Superman, this one!
Even impressing James Bond and making Chuck say,
''go to war Miss Murphy'' On each and every day!
And with his reactions so all in time,
it was but a crime the way Brooks so stole all those hits away!
Making it look so very easy'' too WAY . . . WAY''. . . WAY!''!
And bringing them to their knee's each and everyday!
Because no matter who the batter,
they'd all come back to the dugout in a lather cursing his name they!
Brooks Robinson . . . the latter!
And this Man,
who in The Hall of Fame now so stands . . .
was also equipped with a bat of such power to make em pay!
As it all so began on those fields of green,
a catch with Mom and Dad had they . . .
And then on that first opening day!
As that dream to play he so made!
As a child,
as he so wished the while!
To make it to The Big Leagues one day!
With that great Brooksy smile!
From Little Leagues to High School ball . . .
And some college calls and wants you to play . . .
Until, that fateful draft day . . .
and now your out on your way!
To The Big Leagues, To The Pro's . . .
something that few of us will ever know!
Until, finally then you get that one golden chance,
to so advance on your first opening day!
But, for most of us these dreams die hard they say!
So surely now,
no one can so claim no doubt!
No greater Third Baseman has ever come our way!
As Brooksy Babe made it to the ''O''s!
For in all of those boys of summer,
no other man with such golden hands and glove here . . .
and kind heart has so played!
With all his basic instincts,
history Brooks Robinson so made!
Like a vacuum cleaner,
to batters no one was any meaner stealing all of those hits away!
And Oh that arm which did such harm,
that would even make Superman alarmed!
As ''Aint the beer cold'' as Chuck would say!
And as a Batter he was just as Phatter . . .
Hitting tatters and for average as he gathered everyday!
As he was Mr MVP,
during the season and The World Series . . .
as Brooksy Babe always took center stage!
For Mr. Clutch,
for Brooksy was of such a ballplayer . . . yea!
As he made Earl Weaver a true believer,
and get down on his knees here and thank God for Brooks and pray!
Here's to you Mr. Robinson,
and what to Baltimore you so gave!
And Oh that dynamic duo,
that other Robinson who so who ''O'',
who were like Batman and Robin all the rage!
And Brooks, in baseball you stood at the very top,
as ''O'' miles apart from all the others . . . yup!
But the greatest thing about you Brooks,
is your heart of kindness for others would not stop!!
For you always so find the time,
to us all so remind of your greatest part!
And that kindness in the game of life,
is where it all so starts, is but surely the greatest play in any ball park!
Yea number 5, in the game of baseball . . .
you will forever stay alive until the end of days!
For you were The Very Best,
and nothing less they will say!
As you so showed us all The Oriole Way,
all in your time!
''Yea Brooks like a vacuum cleaner you sucked all of those balls up for outs each day!
And you were such a thief beyound belief in every way!
Who but on fields of green,
robbing some on each and every day!!
Now here's to you Mr. Robinson,
and what to this game of Baseball and Baltimore you so gave!
And that's why in The Hall of Fame as The Greatest whose ever played!

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER SHAFTON T. ADAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and outstanding public servant, Officer Shafton T. Adams, of the United States Capitol Police, for his distinguished service to Congress and the United States of America. On June 30, 2014, Officer Adams will be retiring from the U.S. Capitol Police after thirty outstanding years of service.

Officer Adams, a Washington, D.C. native, attended Southeastern University and the University of the District of Columbia. He began his duty assignments as a Capitol Police Officer in 1984. Throughout his career, he received numerous honors, including a Certificate of Merit and a Life Saving Award. He has earned certifications in advanced specialized fields including Hostage Negotiations, Firearms Instructor and Armorer, Hazardous Materials Technician, CPR Instructor and Field Training Officer.

In 2004, Officer Adams began working as a Physical Security Specialist. In this capacity, he researched, maintained and educated staff on all facets of physical security and equipment. He created vulnerability assessment reports for Members of Congress and recommended risk mitigation. In doing so, he ensured the physical security needs of Members of Congress. His position required him to maintain a Top Secret SSBI Clearance.

The mission of the U.S. Capitol Police is to ''protect the Congress, its legislative processes, Members, employees, visitors, and facilities from crime, disruption, or terrorism.'' Because of the selflessness and dedication of Officer Adams and the Capitol Police, Members of Congress are able to have peace of mind while fulfilling our constitutional responsibilities. We owe so much to the officers of this special force who devote their lives to protecting those who make the laws of our great nation as well as those who work in and visit the magnificent halls and grounds of our Capitol.

Officer Adams's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of character that he embodies. He is passionate, dedicated and highly efficient and adheres to the highest standards of moral values. Officer Adams regards his mission on Earth as being a provider and protector—two roles I have witnessed him perform admirably throughout his professional and personal life.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Officer Adams not only for his distinguished service, but also for his friendship and guidance. It gave me great peace of mind to know that I could call on Officer Adams, day or night, in Washington or at home in Georgia, and he would go to great lengths to assist me in whatever I needed.

Officer Adams has certainly excelled in all areas of his life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife and his family.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Officer Shafton T. Adams upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of thirty years with the United States Capitol Police.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have introduced legislation to reestablish the public holiday for George Washington's Birthday from the third Monday of February to the actual date of Washington's birth on February 22. I have long admired President Washington and have found inspiration in public service from studying his life. Few know that his first political office was representing Winchester, Virginia, in the Virginia House of Burgesses. I am proud to say Winchester is in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Earlier this month I spoke to the third grade classes at Waterford Elementary School in Loudoun County. When I brought my effort to move the holiday back to President Washington's actual birthday the children cheered. Then their teachers asked what their students could do help get the legislation passed.

I want to enter into the RECORD a resolution drafted and signed by all the students in the class that says that George Washington's Birthday should be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday in February each year. The complete resolution reads:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN WOLF'S BILL TO MAKE FEBRUARY 22 THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

We are gathered today in third grade at Waterford Elementary School, in historic Waterford within the County of Loudoun, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to affirm Congressman Wolf's proposed bill to honor George Washington, and

We have learned of Congressman Wolf's initiative to celebrate the significance of President Washington's birth to the birth of our nation, honoring his unparalleled role in American History; instilling in the American people a deeper desire to learn more about this great man:

Whereas, as General and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, Washington led the Patriots to victory in the Revolutionary War. Absent this, the United States may have never been born, and

Whereas, following his dreams of a free and democratic country, Washington refused to become a king and refused to serve more than two terms as president. He pioneered the qualities of our government that helped to establish clear roles of its leaders by establishing a system of checks and balances, and

Whereas, Washington's efforts and actions led to the design and construction of our capital city. Washington, himself, laid the cornerstone of our U.S. Capitol, and

Whereas, our first and one of the greatest presidents, was president of the Continental Congress, a key author of the Constitution, and an instrumental force in uniting the thirteen colonies, and

Whereas, Washington was the ONLY president unanimously nominated for that office by the electoral college for both his first and second terms, and

Whereas, Washington, a man of incredible vision, freed his own slaves in his will, foreshadowing an identical outcome nation-wide on September 22, 1862, and

Whereas, George Washington, the father of country, is admired and honored by all who know the significance of his contributions.

Now, therefore, be it resolved to pass H.R. 681: to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Washington's Birthday be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday of February of each year.

Be it further resolved to tell Congressman Wolf how much his inspiration, wisdom, determination, and unfailing support for honoring George Washington means to us; and how grateful we are or his service.

Respectfully Submitted: Riley E. White, Paige E. Wenham, Clay Ash, Kierstin G. Culp, Reggie Norton, Matt Chmielewski, Jackson Allgood, Aiden Akers, Kevin Beach, Ava Fahrner, Luke Jenkins, Connor Thurston, Joseph T. Ravese, Barrett Ralston, Haley Oliver, Maxwell Twyford, Ava Mumaw, Charlotte Fiorentino, Emma Vest, Lily Kelly, Cole Gormont, Claire Thurston, Ian T. Watson, Susan H. Verdin Teacher, Stephanie R. Wang, Wynn Drenning, Blake Earles, Luke Malonis, Henry E. Dinger, Cash Croft, Grace Gavlinski, Madeline Shea, Collin Price, Anthony Alfaro, Corey Schaeffer, and Evelyn B. Hale Teacher,

The third graders at Waterford Elementary aren't alone in their support of H.R. 681. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winning history author David McCullough, Washington historian Ron Chernow, historians Peter Henriques and Richard Bookhiser and scholar and history professor Gordon Wood also support the bill, as does George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. On June 2, 2014, I received the following letter from Curt Viebranz, the president of Mount Vernon:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for introducing H.R. 681 to restore the nation's official observance of George Washington's Birthday on February 22, the actual date of his birth 282 years ago. We at Mount Vernon enthusiastically support this important legislative effort!

As you are well aware, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was created to save George Washington's home from potential ruin and maintain this priceless landmark for the good of the American people. We have worked tirelessly for more than 150 years to keep Washington's extraordinary legacy alive, and we accomplish this solely through private donations—we do not accept any government funds. Just last year, we opened the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington which offers a remarkable new platform to expand our scholarship and educational outreach for visitors both on the estate and online. We strongly believe that a true patriotic celebration of Washington's birthday would help return George Washington to a place of prominence in our national consciousness—a goal for which we have been striving for many years.

Today several states, the media, advertisers, and the general public have abandoned recognition of Washington's birthday and replaced it with a commercial ''shopping holiday'' that leaves American history, heroes, and patriotism by the side of the road. The holiday was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington and schools and families focused on Washington's sterling example of character and leadership.

Americans should learn from example and celebrate and appreciate our heroes. Our Founding Fathers and subsequent leaders were surely clear on this point. President John F. Kennedy stated, ''History is the means by which a nation establishes its sense of identity and purpose.'' President Harry Truman emphasized this point as well when he said, ''The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.''

Restoring the official celebration of Washington's birthday would be a great place to start. We look forward to the day when, once again, February 22 is marked by patriotic festivities and lessons about George Washington which can teach and inspire American leaders of today and tomorrow.

As our nation's foremost founding father, Washington is relevant to each new generation because his prominent character traits—undaunted courage, unabashed patriotism, reasoned judgment, a profound sense of civic responsibility, and a deep, selfless commitment to country—never go out of style. Educating the children of America about the life and leadership of George Washington is an important investment in the future of our nation.

Your efforts are particularly important because as noted author and keynote speaker at our Library's opening ceremonies David McCullough has said many times, we are ''raising a generation of historically illiterate children.'' Surveys and focus groups validate this problem and show that most Americans recognize the face of Washington on their dollar bills, but they don't know much about him. This is a real cause for concern about the future of our nation It is our duty and privilege to teach today's young people about George Washington's leadership with the hope that they will follow in his footsteps. Enactment of your legislation would go a long way toward emphasizing the importance of remembering the Father of Our Country.

We are inspired in countless ways by George Washington's example as the indispensable man. He served as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army through the eight long years of the War of Independence. The people then showed their overwhelming support for him as he was unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention and to two terms as our new nation's first president. As you know, the unanimous election of a President of the United States has never occurred since.

A true celebration of Washington's birthday would encourage Americans to reflect on the distinguishing qualities of his leadership. For example, Washington was willing to sacrifice the life he loved at Mount Vernon time and time again when he was called to serve his country. Perhaps more than anyone in American history, he understood and valued patriotic duty.

Another admirable trait was his willingness to give up power. In a time when great leaders were marked by their ability to gain and keep as much power as possible, George Washington willingly stepped down as the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army as well as after his second term as president. He could have been elected again and again, but his peaceful transition of power demonstrated that democracy really worked and established a new definition of power. He truly believed in the concept of liberty where the power rested with the people. What an important lesson even for the leaders of today!

The celebration of George Washington's Birthday on February 22 will help return the Father of Our Country to his position as ''First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen,'' as Light-Horse Harry Lee said so many years ago. George Washington's sterling example of character and leadership provides the opportunity to refresh and inspire our country as we face formidable challenges both at home and abroad.

Thank you again for your efforts in introducing H.R. 681. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association stands behind you in this patriotic pursuit.

Sincerely,

CURTIS G. VIEBRANZ,
President.

My legislation is not without precedent. In 1975, Congress amended the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation into law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in November to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day as a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

There is a reason the birthday of President George Washington is the only legal federal holiday observed for a president of the United States. He is called the ''father of our country'' because he is without compare in our nation's history. Washington's Birthday has been celebrated since the final days of the Revolutionary War. French and American troops paraded through Newport, Rhode Island, in 1781 and celebrations were held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1782. Organized by French General Rochambeau and others who knew him personally, these celebrations drew special attention to the bravery, courage, leadership and perseverance of the Revolutionary War hero. From the beginning of our country, the importance of this day has been recognized. As President James Buchanan said in 1860, ''. . . when the birthday of Washington shall be forgotten, liberty will have perished from

the earth.'' In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington's Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

Sadly, the celebration of President Washington's unparalleled role in American history has been lost and I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. It is time to change the focus of the holiday from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington's birth and the birth of our nation. I urge the House to take up this bill and pass it.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DEMETRIS A. SAMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. DeMetris Sampson as she retires after 25 years of illustrious service from the Dallas-based law firm, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Ms. Sampson was the first African-American woman named as partner at the firm, and she epitomizes the characteristics of a true servant-leader. It is often said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others. I dare to say that DeMetris has found herself twice over.

DeMetris Sampson has provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. She has displayed a constant commitment to serving those whose life she has impacted through varied activities—from serving as president of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys. She has been involved extensively with programs, such as Emerging Young Leaders and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

DeMetris Sampson is not only a leader; she is a person of incredible intellect who possesses the ability to build alliances with people and groups from diverse backgrounds and varying interests. She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Trinity Chapter of Links, Inc. No matter the organization or affiliation, integrity has always been the central element of Ms. Sampson's work. She can always be counted on to do what is right. She is a champion of justice and offers a resounding voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ms. Sampson has received numerous awards for her dedicated service, including the 2012 Legacy of Service Foundation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of DeMetris A. Sampson. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the City of Dallas for years to come. I want to extend a personal thank you, and a thank you on behalf of the wonderful people of the great City of Dallas. Thank you DeMetris for your outstanding example. As you retire, you deserve to reflect upon your career with great pride in a job well done. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Sampson for her outstanding professional achievement and dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PITTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Pitts, who passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2014. As one of the key researchers in understanding the dangers and repercussions of air pollution, his contribution to the state of California, and the world, will not be forgotten. James will be truly missed, as a dynamic and passionate advocate, educator, mentor and friend.

Six months after James was born in Salt Lake City on January 10, 1921 to Ester and James N. Pitts, the family moved to Los Angeles. It was not until James' studies in high school at Manual Arts High School that he found his passion for chemistry. He took this enthusiasm for science to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he graduated with a bachelor's in chemistry in 1945 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1949. Following his graduation, James' passion for teaching began to take shape. In 1954, James began as a founding professor at the University of California, Riverside, focusing his research on fundamental photochemistry. James led the efforts to establish the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at the University of California, Riverside and served successfully as its director for eighteen years.

James began his air pollution research in the 1950s during a time when the nature and dangers of smog were still unknown. Through James' findings, he was able to influence groundbreaking Southern California air policy and clean air regulations that drastically improved the state's environmental health, and the health of California residents. The research carried out by his team provided much of the scientific basis of California's forward-thinking policies and regulations which have been widely adopted both nationally and internationally. Throughout his tenure, James also managed to find time to co-author nearly four hundred scientific works, and became such an authority in the scientific world that he was constantly visited by scientists, politicians and international leaders from around the globe. His extensive work in this field earned him numerous accolades from the United States Congress, the California State Assembly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State Air Resources Board, and the Coalition for Clean Air.

James Pitts was an energetic advocate who made a true difference in the state of California and through his efforts, he ultimately impacted the world for the better. As an educator at both University of California, Riverside and University of California, Irvine, his enthusiasm for chemistry was contagious. James instilled many of his students with an unrelenting desire to improve the environment and prepared these future generations of scientists to better the world for many years to come.

James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community, and love of family. James will also be remembered for his love of the outdoors. James took advantage of everything the environment had to offer, which was clearly reflected in his life's work. James is survived by his second wife, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts and his three daughters from a previous marriage, Linda Lee, Christie Hoffman, and Beckie St. George as well as his former wife, Nancy, six grandchildren and their families. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS authority to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts to their employees. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs. The sequester and other budgetary pressures are a factor in the need to offer employees who are eligible for retirement the incentive to retire. The D.C. Courts and PDS would like the flexibility to extend such offers to their employees. In particular, many of the jobs that the D.C. Courts are trying to fill require specialized skill sets and buyout authority would help to make the administration and operations of the court more effective and efficient.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has held that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to provide these types of payments to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

MARYLAND 6TH DISTRICT COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the following Teachers

for being named Teacher of the Year in their counties, each of which is in Maryland's Sixth District:

Mrs. Dana Reinhardt: Teacher of the Year Allegany County Public Schools, 3rd Grade, George's Creek Elementary School.

Ms. Erin Doolittle: Teacher of the Year Frederick County Public Schools, Pre–K, Hillcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Ryan Wolf: Teacher of the Year Garrett County Public Schools, Math, Southern Garrett High School.

Mrs. Jane Lindsay: Teacher of the Year Montgomery County Public Schools, 8th Grade Reading and English, John Poole Middle School.

Mrs. Courtney Leard: Teacher of the Year Washington County Public Schools, 2nd Grade, Fountaindale Elementary School.

There are few callings more important to society than teaching, and these teachers have shown extraordinary skill, commitment, and ingenuity in the classroom. Dana Reinhardt, Erin Doolittle, Ryan Wolf, Jane Lindsay, and Courtney Leard have made a difference for their students and made their communities stronger. Their example is a reminder of the great work done by teachers across Maryland and around the country. Every child in America deserves teachers like this and schools that position them to succeed as adults.

It was my sincere honor to meet with them in the U.S. Capitol and hear their perspective on the major issues in education today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these Teachers of the Year for their tremendous achievement.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Res. 494, relative to the death of former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4095–4191

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2533–2563, S. Res. 486–494, and S. Con. Res. 38.

Pages S4153–54

Measures Reported:

S. 2534, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. (S. Rept. No. 113–198)

Report to accompany S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002. (S. Rept. No. 113–199)

S. 2554, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. (S. Rept. No. 113–200)

S. 1104, to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–201)

S. 1448, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–202)

S. 1933, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–203)

H.R. 3212, to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–204)

S. 2449, to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2454, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4153**

Measures Passed:

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S4188–89

Reid (for Boozman) Amendment No. 3442, to strike the requirement that the Commander of the United States Transportation Command be a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and that a substitute member of the Board be an officer of the United States Transportation Command. **Page S4188**

Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4189–90**

Reid (for Coons) Amendment No. 3443, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4189**

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians: Senate passed H.R. 2388, to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. **Page S4190**

Cape May-Lewes Ferry 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 490, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. **Page S4190**

Congratulating the Los Angeles Kings: Senate agreed to S. Res. 491, congratulating the Los Angeles Kings on winning the 2014 Stanley Cup Championship. **Page S4190**

Congratulating "A Prairie Home Companion": Senate agreed to S. Res. 492, congratulating "A Prairie Home Companion" on its 40 years of engaging, humorous, and quality radio programming. **Page S4190**

Collector Car Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 493, designating July 11, 2014, as "Collector Car Appreciation Day" and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States. **Page S4190**

Relative to the death of former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 494, relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee. **Page S4190**

Measures Considered:

Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting. **Pages S4095–97**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Monday, July 7, 2014, upon disposition of the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S4191**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Pages S4190–91**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, June 26, 2014, through Monday, July 7, 2014, Senators Levin and Carper be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S4191**

Pro Forma—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 30, 2014 at 12 noon; and Thursday, July 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, July 3, 2014 until 2 p.m., on Monday, July 7, 2014. **Page S4191**

Krause Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. **Pages S4101–12**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 215), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4103**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 7, 2014, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, that all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination. **Page S4191**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 93 yeas (Vote No. EX. 216), Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq. **Pages S4112, S4191**

Jo Emily Handelsman, of Connecticut, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. **Pages S4112–13, S4191**

Esther Puakela Kiaʻaina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S4112, S4191**

Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S4112, S4191**

Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior. **Pages S4112, S4191**

Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. **Pages S4112, S4191**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

John W. Leslie, Jr., of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2019.

Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Army, and Navy. **Page S4191**

Messages from the House: **Page S4151**

Measures Referred: **Page S4151**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S4095, S4151**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S4151, S4190**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S4151**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4151–53**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4153**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4154–56**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4156–67**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4146–51**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4167–87**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S4187**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4188**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4188**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—216) **Pages S4103, S4112**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Howard Baker, in accordance with S. Res. 494, at 6:41 p.m., until 12 noon on Monday, June 30, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4191.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported (S. 2534) an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2015.

U.S. TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Tourism, Competitiveness, and Innovation concluded a hearing to examine the state of the United States travel and tourism industry, focusing on Federal efforts to attract 100 million visitors annually, after receiving testimony from Kenneth Hyatt, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce, International Trade Administration; Michele T. Bond, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs; and Michael Stroud, Acting Assistant Secretary, Private Sector Office, and John Wagner, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee began consideration of an original bill entitled, "The Preserving American's Transit and Highways Act", but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine sexual assault on campus, focusing on working to ensure student safety, after receiving testimony from Catherine E. Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and James L. Moore, Director, Clery Act Compliance Division, Office of Federal Student Aid, both of the Department of Education; Emily Renda, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; John Kelly, Know Your IX, Medford, Massachusetts; and Jane Stapleton, University of New Hampshire Prevention Innovations: Research and Practices for Ending Violence Against Women, Durham.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 2454, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 37 public bills, H.R. 4976–5012; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 651–653 were introduced. **Pages H5816–18**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5819–30**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2807, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–494);

H.R. 3134, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable contributions made by an individual after the close of the taxable year, but before the tax return due date, to be treated as made in such taxable year, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–495);

H.R. 4619, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–496);

H.R. 4691, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–497); and

H.R. 4719, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–498). **Page H5816**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5771**

Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014: The House passed H.R. 4899, to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production and to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, by a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 185 noes, Roll No. 368. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, June 25th.

Pages H5772–H5805

Rejected the Bishop (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 367.

Pages H5803–05

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–50 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H5773**

Agreed to:

Duncan (SC) amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that directs the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to include Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia into an administrative planning area for offshore leasing purposes; **Pages H5786–87**

Wittman amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that fosters STEM education in the South Atlantic states by allowing colleges, universities and historically black colleges and universities (with a preference to military veteran serving institutions of higher education) to partner with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to train the next generation of geological and geophysical scientists to better understand the oil, gas and other hydrocarbon potential of the offshore South Atlantic; **Pages H5787–88**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that establishes an Office of Energy Employment and Training to ensure that veterans, women, and under-represented minorities are fully included in the hiring and training efforts of the Department of the Interior's energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies; **Pages H5793–97**

Wittman amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that grants the Secretary of the Interior the ability to add a lease sale area to a finalized 5 year plan, as long as all of the National Environmental Policy Act requirements have been met on that specific area within the last 5 years (by a recorded vote of 244 ayes to 172 noes, Roll No. 360); and **Pages H5782–83, H5798–99**

Bishop (UT) amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that prohibits the Secretary from canceling, deferring or withdrawing any lease previously announced to be auctioned based on public comments received by the Department after the public comment period has expired (by a recorded vote of 241 ayes to 173 noes, Roll No. 365).

Pages H5792–93, H5802–03

Rejected:

Lowenthal amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that sought to strike section 10410 which prohibits BOEM and BSEE from coordinating coastal and marine spatial planning under the National Ocean Policy (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 232 noes, Roll No. 361); **Pages H5783–86, H5799H5800**

Capps amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that sought to require the Secretary of Interior to notify all relevant state and local regulatory agencies and publish a notice in the Federal Register

within 30 days after receiving any application for a permit that would allow the conduct of any offshore oil and gas well stimulation activities (by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 362);

Pages H5788–89, H5800–01

Deutch amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that sought to strike the provision that an action involving a covered energy decision shall take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 363); **Pages H5789–90, H5801**

Blumenauer amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that sought to require companies holding leases, which allow them to drill on public lands off-shore without paying a royalty, to renegotiate those leases prior to bidding on new leases issued pursuant to Title I of this Act (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 364); and

Pages H5790–92, H5801–02

DeFazio amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 113–493) that sought to authorize $10 million of the revenue generated by the underlying bill for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use existing authority to limit speculation in energy markets (by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 366). **Pages H5797–98, H5803**

H. Res. 641, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4899) and (H.R. 4923), was agreed to yesterday, June 25th.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:02 a.m. **Page H5798**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 30th. **Pages H5805, H5814**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H5790.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Nine recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5799, H5800, H5800–01, H5801, H5801–02, H5802–03, H5803, H5804–05, H5805. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT OF THE SEC'S DIVISION OF TRADING AND MARKETS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the SEC's Division of Trading and Markets". Testimony was heard from Stephen Luparello, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 2283, to prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; H.R. 4347, to require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus; H.R. 4411, to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes; H.R. 4640, to establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission; and H.R. 4653, to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; H. Res. 435, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history; and H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents; and H. Res. 562, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity. The following bills and resolutions were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4347; H.R. 2283; H.R. 4411; H.R. 4640; H.R. 4653; H. Res. 435; H. Res. 562; and H. Res. 588.

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

Committee on the Judiciary: Task Force on Over-Criminalization held a hearing entitled "Collateral Consequences". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TECHNOLOGY FOR PATIENT SAFETY AT VETERANS HOSPITALS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Oversight held a joint subcommittee hearing entitled "Technology for Patient Safety at Veterans Hospitals". Testimony was heard from Chetan Jinadatha, Chief, Infectious Diseases, Central Texas Veterans Health Care System; and public witnesses.

NEW DOMESTIC ENERGY PARADIGM: DOWNSTREAM CHALLENGES FOR SMALL ENERGY BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade held a hearing entitled ''The New Domestic Energy Paradigm: Downstream Challenges for Small Energy Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Monday, June 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11:30 a.m., Monday, June 30

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 11:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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