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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 24, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRUCE POLIQUIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4300. An act to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2325. An act to incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue

beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

APPLAUDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the crew of the USS *Frank Cable*, a submarine tender homeported at Naval Base Guam.

The *Frank Cable* and her crew were selected for the 2018 Secretary of the Navy's Environmental Award for large deck combatants in recognition of the crew's efforts. The *Frank Cable* crew have worked diligently to minimize waste aboard and helped to clean up local communities, both on Guam and where they are deployed abroad. Caring for our island and conserving Guam's natural resources are among my top priorities, and I am immensely proud of the *Frank Cable* crew's achievement.

The Secretary of the Navy's award this year, plus a second award to the USS *Frank Cable*, the 2017 Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Excellence Award, are examples of the partnership between the U.S. military and the people of Guam that we need.

I, again, applaud the USS *Frank Cable* crew on their awards, and I hope that the military will continue to act as responsible stewards of our island.

21ST CENTURY BEAN

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, if I could today, I would like to share a story about one of my favorite communities in Kansas.

At 3,681 feet of elevation, Goodland, Kansas, sits on the border of the Kan-

sas-Colorado line. You can look to the west and see the Rocky Mountains literally rising out of the Earth. Partially because of that elevation and the many hot, dry days there, the farmers have struggled for decades for a great crop.

But about 20 years ago, one of my good friends, Alan Townsend, and the farmers who make up 21st Century Bean, started growing pinto beans. They had some success, and then they started growing black-eyed peas and garbanzos as well.

Today, 21st Century Bean grows 40 million pounds of beans every day. They had success at that, and they said: You know what else we can do? We can process and package these here. So they formed a processing plant and hired more employees. That was a success. Eventually, they hired a trucking company. They now have their own trucking company to ship their products. Today, and every day, 21st Century Bean ships out enough beans to feed a million people across this country. The great thing is, their main customer is food banks across this great country as well.

I am so proud that we have made food banks such a priority in this year's nutrition bill, the farm bill. This year, we are going to increase spending from \$15 million to \$60 million for food banks. Some other significant products coming out of this nutrition bill is that we are going to make access to nutrition easier for the elderly, for those in the military, and, what I am especially proud of, we are rewarding children for making healthy choices like fresh vegetables and fresh fruit, as well as the greatest drink known to mankind, wholesome milk.

Mr. Speaker, as an OB/GYN for the past 30 years, I certainly know how important nutrition is, from pre-conception, during pregnancy, breastfeeding moms, and all the way to the last decades of life. I am so proud that this bill has made a priority helping protect

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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those on the edges of life: the newborn and the elderly.

I am proud that our country spends \$115 billion every year to help those who need food assistance and spends another \$3 billion of nutrition assistance across the world. But what I am really proud of, though, is this gives everybody on food stamps and nutrition assistance a chance, an opportunity for some type of work training.

I think there is no greater gift we can give to people than teaching them how to fish, as well as giving them fish when they are in need. I think that this is a great thing to do. I think it is a great opportunity for people. Over 80 percent of Americans believe in this policy. I believe that this is not a punishment, but rather an opportunity we give to people.

I stand so proudly behind the nutrition component of this farm bill, which we have strived so hard to improve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE PAUL W. DANAHY, JR., ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Paul Danahy, Jr., a leader of distinction from Tampa, Florida, and part of Florida's Greatest Generation. Judge Danahy is celebrating his 90th birthday this week.

Judge Danahy was one of the longest serving members of Florida's Second District Court of Appeals. The judge may also wish to be remembered for working his way through college at the legendary Tampa's Valencia Garden restaurant as the only Anglo member of the Spanish waiters for many, many years. Wherever Judge Danahy worked and served, he earned a reputation for working tirelessly and gaining the respect of all he worked with.

Born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Judge Danahy was drawn to Tampa to play basketball at the University of Tampa. In Tampa, he found both a new hometown and the love of his life, Georgia Reed.

Judge Danahy enlisted in the Army during the Korean war and has a very unique military record, including three honorable discharges from two branches of the military: the Marine Reserves, the U.S. Army Infantry, and finally from service in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, a precursor to the CIA. Upon return from military service, he found his true calling and earned his law degree from the University of Florida in 1957.

Judge Danahy became an influential member of the Florida House of Representatives, serving from 1966 to 1974. True to form, Judge Danahy played a significant role as part of what many believe to be Tampa's greatest State legislative delegations during the 1960s and early 1970s.

There, amongst other progressive policies, he drafted and championed

the first ethics law in the State of Florida, which continues in force to this day and is now firmly enshrined in Florida's constitution. The Florida we know and love today would not be possible without the contributions of Judge Danahy and his partners in Florida's Greatest Generation.

After leaving the legislature, Judge Danahy's service was only beginning. He was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeals in 1977, and sat on the bench a record-shattering 33 years, serving as chief judge from 1986 to 1988. In his 30th year at the court, Judge Danahy received a fitting recognition: the largest conference room at the Tampa branch of the Second District Court of Appeals was named the Judge Paul Danahy, Jr., Conference Room. This recognition not only honored his record-setting time on the bench, but also his legislative accomplishments. He was largely responsible for obtaining the legislative funding to bring the branch to Tampa.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor and send many wishes to a great Tampanian, part of Florida's Greatest Generation of leaders, Judge Paul W. Danahy, Jr., on his 90th birthday. His legacy continues as the patriarch of an ever-growing family to whom he imparts his wisdom and through whom his lessons and beliefs will surely echo in the years to come.

POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already having an incredibly positive impact on our economy. Hundreds of companies have already offered billions in bonuses and raises for their employees, far from the crumbs predicted by some of my colleagues, or the predicted Armageddon.

The best part is, this is just the beginning, as the law won't even take full effect until next year, when we retire much of the current tax calculation process and the burdens of it. That is when taxpayers will notice the biggest difference when filing their tax returns.

Despite these early positive signs, some individuals claim people should still pay more in taxes. They also think they themselves should pay more, like our friend Bill Gates. He says: "I need to pay higher taxes. I've paid more taxes, over \$10 billion, than anyone else, but the government should require the people in my position to pay significantly higher taxes." Interesting.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Gates' fellow billionaire buddy and Berkshire Hathaway CEO, Warren Buffett, has offered similar ideas about the need for people like himself to pay more in taxes. Fine. But the amount of financial security

established by people like this is obviously far from mainstream Americans and what they earn themselves.

Before they amassed their current fortunes, were they as considerably outspoken on the need for progressive taxation, long before establishing themselves as some of the richest men in the world?

I don't think so. Indeed, these days, much of their funds are stashed away in foundations and not voluntarily paid forward as taxes to the U.S. Government. I find that interesting. In short, no amount of taxation would truly impact their lives as it would for mainstream, middle-income Americans. It does impact everyone else.

What is more, I do hear some people in the mainstream who are middle-income folks saying they wouldn't mind paying more in taxes for this or that. What I don't get is why they demand that their neighbor does so, too.

In America, many middle-income families enjoying lower rates question how well their government is spending and managing what they tax them for now. For them, the government report card isn't so good. They don't wish to entrust government with more of their earnings and more of the hard work from the sweat of their brow to an inefficient bureaucracy, even if their neighbors demand that they do, or that the government demands it of them by its power of taxation.

So what I am proposing is a bill with my colleague, Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, called the Donate Extra Money Against National Debt Act, or the DEMAND Act, for those who demand to pay more. This bill will allow those who want to pay more than required to simply check a box on their tax return and donate as much money to the Treasury as they would like.

Our bill would add to the 1040 tax form a check box and a line stating: By checking here, I signify that in addition to my tax liability, I would like to donate the included payment to be used exclusively for the purpose of paying down the national debt.

Before, there was no simple or obvious way to accomplish this. This makes it easy and obvious in how to do so. This way, anyone who feels the need to pay more in taxes has an easy way to do so. For millions of other hardworking Americans and business owners who suffered under our previous Tax Code and tax law, they will not be forced to do so under that Code any longer.

This bill, indeed, is one of those rare win-wins. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett or anyone who feels they are not paying enough can donate as much money to the Treasury as they would like, while everyday American businesses will thrive in a probusiness and progrowth climate, all this without Congress demanding more or people harranguing their neighbors.

After all, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already working. U.S. companies are already paying out more than \$4 billion

in bonuses, while over 4 million American workers have already received a pay raise, bonus, or other financial investment. Even Warren Buffett recently referred to the new law as being a “huge tailwind” for American businesses.

□ 1215

As much as Senator SCHUMER or Minority Leader PELOSI would like to trumpet tax reform as unpopular, bad for the economy, Armageddon, or just crumbs for people, they are missing the point. Tax reform grows more popular each day, especially as more and more Americans see more in their paychecks and begin to realize how they stand to benefit under this new law, especially when the full extent of the law has not yet been felt until next year.

Instead of taking away those savings and benefits, the majority whip and I are giving the people who feel so strongly the option to help pay down the deficit on their own accord voluntarily. I applaud the philanthropic work of Mr. Gates, Mr. Buffett, and others, but the DEMAND Act doesn't force anyone to do anything; it allows certain individuals who demand to pay more in taxes to put their money where their mouth is.

Indeed, Senator Biden, a few years ago, said paying taxes is patriotic, so let those who demand to pay more, who want to pay more, lead the way in the new patriotism.

THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address another egregious misrepresentation coming from you know who. How dare anyone refer to an overpriced luxury golf course as the Southern White House.

Let's be clear about something: The Civil War is over. Jefferson Davis failed. The Confederacy lost. There is no such thing as the Southern White House.

Thousands of Americans died on the battlefield and shed blood, sweat, and tears to make certain that, in this country, only one institution connected to the executive branch stood in the land of the free and the home of the brave. That institution is located right here in our Nation's Capital. The address is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was built by slaves.

The White House does not belong to the ghosts of the Confederacy. The White House does not belong to Vladimir Putin or his indigenous collaborators. The White House does not belong to a privately owned real estate cartel to be used and abused as a prop for an infomercial.

We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The White House belongs to the American people.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to dispute the absurdity that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act benefits only the wealthy, leaving nothing but crumbs for the rest.

As someone who started contributing to my family's household income at age 12, I am all too familiar with the many struggles of our country's working and middle classes. Despite their steady perseverance in the face of politicians whose fiscal philosophy was “government knows best,” the working poor and middle class have been chewed up by the system that same philosophy promulgated.

Republicans' Tax Cuts and Jobs Act delivers a modern Tax Code that is fiscally responsible, levels the playing field, and supports working-class Americans. Republicans understand that progrowth tax reform means simpler and fairer taxes that provide much-needed relief to the middle class and our small businesses. It also means security for American jobs, more take-home pay for the workforce, and a level playing field for Americans' farms and businesses.

By doubling the standard deduction, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will move more low-income Americans into the zero tax bracket. For married couples filing jointly, this translates to \$24,000 yearly that is free—free—from Federal taxes. This also means that working-class Americans will be able to take home more of their hard-earned paychecks.

Currently, over 70 percent of the people in the United States already take the standard deduction. By doubling the standard deduction, even more Americans will be spared from itemizing, and the process will be so simple that they can file on a postcard. For those few Americans who do elect to itemize, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act preserves the child and dependent care tax credit, the adoption tax credit, the deduction for charitable contributions, the home mortgage interest deduction for existing mortgages, and the deduction for newly purchased homes for interest on up to \$750,000 of mortgage principal.

It also continues to allow for writeoff of State and local property taxes up to \$10,000. Finally, it expands the medical expense deduction in 2018 for medical expenses exceeding 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income and rises to 10 percent beginning in 2019.

Last, by lowering the crippling taxes on businesses, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act translates to an increase in employment and workers' wages. We are seeing the lowest unemployment rate since 2000, and 4 million workers and counting have seen the benefits of these historic tax cuts in their income. Businesses across the country are giving bonuses, pay raises, and new in-

vestments. Bonuses alone amount to over \$4 billion across businesses countrywide.

The evidence that tax cuts provide substantial relief for the working and middle classes is clear. The Democrats' approach was to defend a Tax Code riddled with high taxes and loopholes, but I am proud that Republicans delivered on our promise to bring relief to American workers and happy to say that we are only beginning to see the benefits of this historic tax cut for America's businesses, workers, families, and job creators.

THE HEROIC ACTS OF JAMES SHAW, JR., AND TAMMIE JO SHULTS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, malevolent actions and accidents give an opportunity for people to rise to heroic actions. America is a country familiar with heroes.

At a sad and awful event this weekend in Nashville, Davidson County, at a Waffle House where four individuals were killed and four injured by a crazed individual with an AR-15, a man named James Shaw, Jr., rallied all of his courage and strength to rise to the occasion of heroics, to get the assailant, take his gun from him, and to save his life and other people's lives.

James Shaw, Jr., is a lifetime Nashvillian. He didn't plan to be a hero that day, but he rose to the occasion. I take my hat off to him and commend him for his actions in saving other lives.

Just a week or so earlier, we had a Southwest Airlines plane that would have crashed if it weren't for a great pilot, possibly, a plane that, tragically, had a piece of the wing come off and fly into the airplane and cause the death of a passenger and chaos on the plane.

The pilot, a trained Navy fighter pilot, Tammie Jo Shults, stayed calm and brought that plane in safely without any other loss of life or injuries. She is a Sully part 2: Sullenberger, who took that plane in New York and landed it in the river and saved a lot of people's lives.

We all honored Sully, as we should and should have. We need to honor Tammie Jo Shults in the same way. She is Sullenberger part 2. And James Shaw, Jr., of Nashville is a hero of the same dimension, and he saved many American lives. Those acts need to be remembered, reflected upon, and honored. I do so today, and I know other Members of this House do as well.

HONORING JUDGE PATRICIA GIFFORD

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of

Judge Patricia Gifford, who recently passed away, unexpectedly, just shy of her 80th birthday.

She was a pillar in the Marion County, Indianapolis, Indiana, community; a role model for so many lawyers and judges; and a dear friend. She will be forever remembered for inspiring women and redefining the role of women in the courtroom.

She was one of only two females in her law school class. She was part of a team of the first women in the country appointed to prosecute only sex crimes cases, primarily rape cases, and she was the sixth female to assume the bench in Indiana.

In 1992, Judge Gifford gained international recognition for presiding over the famous rape trial of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. The extensive international media coverage could have easily turned that trial into a circus, but not under her watch. Judge Gifford was widely praised throughout the country for keeping order throughout the trial and presiding over a fair trial. Those of us who practiced in her court expected nothing less.

She retired after a 30-year distinguished career on the bench. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, and especially those in Marion County, are forever grateful for Judge Gifford's many contributions to our Hoosier community.

We join her family—her husband, Bob Butsch; her daughter, Jennifer Butsch Petit; and her family—in mourning our loss.

NATIONAL MENINGITIS AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support a resolution that I am introducing to raise awareness of the danger of meningitis B.

Nearly 1,000 Americans contract the meningitis disease each year, and for more than 15 percent of the victims, it is, tragically, fatal. I want to share the stories of two of those victims here today.

Emily Stillman was born on September 11, 1993. She used to joke that she had the unluckiest birthday, but her mom, Alicia, was always quick to reply: No; it was one of the luckiest days of our lives.

Emily was a 19-year-old sophomore at Kalamazoo College in Michigan when she contracted meningitis B, and on January 31, 2013, Emily called home complaining of a headache. She was hospitalized for just 36 hours, and then she passed away.

Emily had a rare strain of meningitis for which there was no approved vaccine yet in the United States. It was a shock, of course, to the Stillman family that their young daughter, who was so vibrant and full of life, was taken away at such a young age.

Then, in 2014, just a little later, the vaccine for meningitis B was finally approved by the FDA and made available here in the United States after I and several other of my colleagues had been advocating for its approval. Yet, even today, fewer than 10 percent of young people receive the meningitis B vaccine.

Emily's mother, Alicia, who is in the gallery with us today, founded The Emily Stillman Foundation to help preserve her daughter's memory and also advocate both for vaccination and organ donation.

Mr. Speaker, Patti Wukovits also lost her 17-year-old daughter Kimberly in 2012. Patti is also joining us here in the House gallery today.

Her daughter Kimberly Coffey was a high school senior on Long Island and was just 17 years old when she contracted meningitis B back in 2012. Her parents, of course, were blindsided, thinking she had been vaccinated. Within hours of being hospitalized, she went into cardiac arrest and her organs began to fail. Her mother had to make that agonizing decision to actually remove her from life support.

To honor Kimberly's memory, Patti founded The Kimberly Coffey Foundation, with the mission of also educating others about the importance of vaccination against meningitis B.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution that I am introducing today will designate April 24 as National Meningitis Awareness Day to help educate other parents and other young people about the dangers of meningitis and the important need for vaccination.

Alicia Stillman and Patti Wukovits already know that alerting families about a simple vaccine can prevent a tragedy. It is also time for us, Mr. Speaker, to broaden the awareness so that they are not just doing this on their own.

□ 1230

BREAKING THE SILENCE: ADDRESSING SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. "Have courage and be kind." These were the words Megan Rondini left behind on a whiteboard in her school apartment.

Yesterday, at a Sexual Assault on Campus Forum at Rice University in Houston, Texas, sponsored by the Victims' Rights Caucus, Megan's father, Mike Rondini, spoke these words. He is from Austin. He tries to live by these words every day.

Megan Rondini was sexually assaulted while a student at the University of Alabama in 2015. Doing everything a sexual assault victim should do, Megan immediately called the police and went to the hospital, but the hospital did not have a sexual assault forensic examiner or a SANE on staff, meaning no one there was trained to properly deal with a sexual assault vic-

tim or properly collect DNA evidence for a rape kit.

As a former prosecutor and a judge, I have seen, firsthand, the trauma and pain that rape causes victims. Sometimes that pain never goes away. The hospital's failure to provide adequate care left Megan feeling hopeless and alone.

After the hospital, she went to the police station, and there she was treated with disdain. The police didn't believe her and instead read her, the victim—get this—the Miranda warnings. Are you kidding me? Rape is never the fault of the victim.

When Megan sought counseling at the university, the counselor abruptly interrupted her and told her she was close to the family of the rapist and promptly turned Megan away, providing no other counselor.

Megan was completely failed by the system—by the university, the hospital, and the police. Mr. Speaker, not long after, she took her life.

Megan's story is heartbreaking, but her memory reminds us that we must be tenacious in fighting sexual assault on campus and everywhere else. The unfortunate reality, Mr. Speaker, is that stories like Megan's are common.

Congressmen OLSON, CULBERSON, and I joined together at the forum yesterday, and we all heard stories about this, firsthand, from victims. It is always personal. When victims are ignored and rejected, they feel like they have been abandoned, and in many cases, they have been. They are forced to relive their attack over and over again.

Last year, I introduced, along with my friend, CAROLYN MALONEY, the bipartisan Megan Rondini Act, a bill that would require hospitals to provide access to a SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensics Examiner) or a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) or have a plan in place to get a victim to a nearby hospital that can provide forensic medical services. Professor and sexual assault nurse examiner Nancy Downing from Texas A&M testified yesterday that by providing SANEs to rape victims, a hospital can dramatically improve a victim's chance to recover emotionally and medically from the attack.

In addition, I am a cosponsor to CAROLYN MALONEY'S (NY) bipartisan legislation to require colleges to have a sexual assault victim advocate on staff to assist and advise sexual assault victims. There should be no more school counselors that turn victims away.

The director of public policy for Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Chris Kaiser, also testified, and he talked about how the Association and other associations are working on many levels to provide a culture of change within law enforcement and the attitude of peace officers regarding this type of crime, and also, more reporting require.

Treating victims like criminals is never okay. Remember, Mr. Speaker, rape is never the fault of the victim. As we become more aware of this dastardly crime, some schools, like Rice University, have made excellent strides to address sexual assault on campus. The Rice dean of undergraduates, Dr. John Hutchinson, and former Rice student body president, Justin Onwenu, both testified about the many positive proactive steps Rice has taken; a guide for other universities.

Rice University requires all students to participate in a student-driven 6-week course that teaches young college students to notice the signs of sexual assault and work to change the culture that allows sexual assault to occur on campus. It is work like this that will help foster a culture change where survivors of sexual assault will feel supported by our community.

Sexual assault on campus must end. We must change the culture to prevent this crime. We must give victims support to recover and become survivors, and we must let offenders know they will be held accountable for their acts, and they will meet the law.

Mr. Speaker, we should follow the words of Megan Rondini: "Have courage, and be kind."

And that is just the way it is.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

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.

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.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SABLAN 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.

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD K. GRAVES, JR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and passing of Harold K. Graves, Jr.

A native of Kentucky, Harold later lived in Oklahoma, moved to California at a very young age, and eventually to Nevada County.

Throughout his life, he developed a reputation for being a natural born leader, whether it was as a young man leading his fellow mates in the neighborhood at playtime or carrying on through his service in Vietnam and in civilian life. He went through basic training at Fort Ord, California, was chosen for Officer Candidate School in Georgia, and then went on to Ranger School.

First Lieutenant Graves received many distinguished awards for his heroism in combat, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many more. He was a special assistant to a general for a time. When he learned after one day that one of his duties was setting out nametags for dinner, he requested to move on to a different type of tougher duty. That was his leadership. That was Harold.

Back home, Harold quickly became a leader in his community as well. He

served as president of many community organizations, including the local chamber and Rotary. With his Hollywood actor looks, he charmed many, including his beautiful wife, Patricia. They went on to have two beautiful daughters, Jennifer and Kerry, and four wonderful grandchildren.

In his service to Nevada City and Nevada County, Harold was president of the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter and became an honorary member of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

I was proud to have known him. Even in hard times, such as after he laid the motorcycle over, he still had that charm and presence even when he was recovering.

We will miss him. He was a great asset to our community and to the United States, as well as his family. God bless him and his family.

DEMOCRATS WILL KEEP OUR PROMISE

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Republicans have relentlessly tried to undermine the pillars of Americans' retirement security.

The Trump budget alone calls for \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare, almost \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, and \$72 billion in cuts to Social Security disability. Democrats will keep our promise to our seniors and protect the health, well-being, and financial security of American families by strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Moreover, the Trump budget calls for cuts to vital childcare development block grants that help ensure working parents have access to quality, affordable child care. Democrats are calling for expanded childcare assistance and universal access to high-quality preschool programs so every child can have a strong start.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of Daniel Ortega against the people of Nicaragua who peacefully protested the regime.

Ortega has taken a page out of the Castro and Maduro playbook and has unleashed his national police to kill more than 30 young Nicaraguans and injure many others over the weekend. He is presenting a false narrative that the political protests are political maneuverings by the opposition, giving him the excuse to censure all independent media, while his people beat, jail, and kill students who are fighting

for their basic rights. He has changed presidential term limits, dismantled democratic institutions, and committed electoral fraud.

Madam Speaker, this is a country that has endured two dictatorships and a civil war. We must demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Nicaragua. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass my NICA Act to cut funding to Ortega, and I urge the administration to sanction more Ortega officials who are committing human rights abuses. We must not allow Ortega's actions to go unpunished.

A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is wrong that Republicans continue to pursue policies that clearly benefit only the wealthiest Americans and large corporations, in particular, leaving middle class Americans behind. They have undermined our healthcare system, raising premiums on Americans and increasing the cost of prescription drugs. That is the impact of what this Republican majority has done.

At a time when we see more Americans concerned about rising healthcare costs, we really ought to be figuring out ways to work together. I know Democrats and Republicans can do that. But instead, the Republican majority is focused on tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations, essentially passing huge benefits—\$250 billion—to CEOs and wealthy shareholders, mostly through stock buybacks, which is money that does not go to America's workers.

Now, Republicans are using their deficit-exploding tax plan to justify huge cuts that could impact Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. That is a raw deal.

Democrats are offering a better deal. We want to grow our economy and create high-wage jobs that support a family, not just so they can just get by, but so they can actually succeed. We have a plan for opportunities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1537

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) at 3 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

JUSTICE FOR UNCOMPENSATED SURVIVORS TODAY (JUST) ACT OF 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 447) to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 447

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 "Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON HOLOCAUST ERA ASSETS AND RELATED ISSUES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED COUNTRIES.—The term "covered countries" means participants in the 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference that are determined by the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, in consultation with expert nongovernmental organizations, to be countries of particular concern relative to the issues listed in subsection (b).

(3) WRONGFULLY SEIZED OR TRANSFERRED.—The term "wrongfully seized or transferred" includes confiscations, expropriations, nationalizations, forced sales or transfers, and sales or transfers under duress during the Holocaust era or the period of Communist rule of a covered country.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that assesses and describes the nature and extent of national laws and enforceable policies of covered countries regarding the identification and the return of or restitution for wrongfully seized or transferred Holocaust era assets consistent with, and evaluated with respect to, the goals and objectives of the 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference, including—

(1) the return to the rightful owner of any property, including religious or communal property, that was wrongfully seized or transferred;

(2) if return of any property described in paragraph (1) is no longer possible, the provision of comparable substitute property or the payment of equitable compensation to the rightful owner in accordance with principles of justice and through an expeditious

claims-driven administrative process that is just, transparent, and fair;

(3) in the case of heirless property, the provision of property or compensation to assist needy Holocaust survivors, to support Holocaust education, and for other purposes;

(4) the extent to which such laws and policies are implemented and enforced in practice, including through any applicable administrative or judicial processes; and

(5) to the extent practicable, the mechanism for and an overview of progress toward the resolution of claims for United States citizen Holocaust survivors and United States citizen family members of Holocaust victims.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that after the submission of the report described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State should continue to report to Congress on Holocaust era assets and related issues in a manner that is consistent with the manner in which the Department of State reported on such matters before the date of the enactment of the Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from New York favor the motion?

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On that basis, pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) will control the 20 minutes in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nazis ravaged Europe, confiscation of property was just one of the many injustices Holocaust victims endured.

In the almost 75 years since World War II ended, helping to repair the wrongs inflicted by the Nazis by restoring the property of millions of people who had their lives torn apart has proven a difficult and challenging problem.

The 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference addressed the ongoing injustices created by the Holocaust, including guidance related to restitution of

property wrongfully seized. However, among the 46 signers to this declaration, including the United States, there are vast disparities in the degree to which the laws and policies of each country fulfill these principles to compensate survivors.

This act will help hold governments accountable that have fallen short of their commitment to these important principles.

This bill requires the State Department to assess the laws and policies regarding the return or restitution for wrongfully seized Holocaust era assets by countries that participated in the 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference.

This bill states that it is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should continue to report to Congress on Holocaust era assets.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to do something that I never would have thought that I would do in my time in Congress. I am here to stand in opposition to a bill that purports to seek justice for Holocaust survivors.

Anyone who knows just the slightest bit about my tenure in Congress knows how hard I have worked over the years in support of Holocaust survivors. I have held hearings on the plight of survivors. I have introduced bills to seek justice for survivors. I have pressed Germany to honor its obligation and its commitment to survivors to ensure that Germany takes care of the health and home care needs of all survivors so that they may live out their remaining days in the dignity and comfort that they deserve.

I have fought against those who denied the Holocaust, and I have spent countless hours speaking with and visiting with the many survivors that I have now come to know as dear friends; listening to their stories; hearing them recall the atrocities that they somehow managed to live through; and then hearing how, even today, more than 70 years later, they still face the injustices of humanity's darkest period.

In fact, it was Speaker RYAN who named me as one of the congressional members on the Holocaust Museum Board just last year, and I am truly honored and humbled to have been named to this position.

So I think my history of support for Holocaust survivors and their families is well established and well known, which is why I cannot, in good conscience, stand here before you, Mr. Speaker, before my colleagues, before the American people, and before the Holocaust survivors who are listening to offer my support for this bill.

And with all due respect for my colleagues, and they are good friends, because I know that their hearts are in the right place, this bill is not what it purports to be. That is the problem.

Let's start with the name, Mr. Speaker. Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act.

Where is the justice, Mr. Speaker?

This bill is nothing more than a mere reporting requirement. It has got a fancy name. It is going to give us the feel-good that you are doing something for survivors, but it is just a reporting requirement.

What do survivors gain from that?

There is no actionable item in this bill. There is nothing to compel any government to do anything in this bill. There is simply no real action here.

This is a Claims Conference justice, and by that I mean the Claims Conference wants to appear to be doing all that it can for survivors, but it is nothing more than that. It is a smoke screen.

We should not be fooled, Mr. Speaker. This bill has the full support of the Claims Conference precisely because it does the bare minimum. It keeps the tension away from the sad truth.

What is the truth?

That the Claims Conference has utterly failed our Holocaust survivors. There is no denying that the Claims Conference has a particularly checkered history: its flawed process, its failure to support fully the Holocaust survivors' needs, its opposition to allowing survivors real justice, and, of course, the embezzlement and fraud issues.

□ 1545

There is no denying that this bill moves the needle not 1 inch closer to justice. It has a fancy name, but there is no justice.

Just look at the timeframe here, Mr. Speaker. The report is due in 18 months, and then what? And how many of the survivors will pass away before this report even gets issued?

So I am sorry to say, but the JUST Act just falls so far short of what survivors need today that I cannot stand before my friends and colleagues and I cannot stand before my Holocaust survivors and offer a voice of support for this bill.

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

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

I rise in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Senator BALDWIN and Senator RUBIO for their tireless efforts on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their heirs. I would also like to acknowledge the important work of my New York colleague, Congressman JOE CROWLEY, and CHRIS SMITH, who introduced the House version of this legislation.

The Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today, or JUST, Act would shine a light on any country in Europe stalling on the return of or restitution for wrongfully confiscated or transferred Holocaust era assets.

Nearly 75 years after the end of World War II, we are still debating property rights for Holocaust victims. That is truly astonishing. According to the Holocaust Immovable Property Restitution Study, a substantial

amount of property confiscated from European Jews hasn't been returned to its rightful owners or its owners haven't been compensated at all.

We must ensure that the United States is holding governments to their obligations and ensuring their property is properly returned. Holocaust survivors have waited too long for justice. We cannot let them wait any longer.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I previously discussed how passing just a reporting requirement is not justice for survivors, never mind the title. It may be vigilance, but there will be no justice served for a single survivor when this body passes this bill and sends it to the President for his signature. Mr. Speaker, there is something even worse than not providing justice for survivors, and that is depriving them of justice.

I want to talk about one of the principles in this bill that, while on the face of it, might read like it is a simple principle—perhaps it sounds like good, common sense—and this is what it does:

This bill directs the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress that assesses and describes the nature and extent that certain countries have gone to in order to meet the goals and objectives of the 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference.

Again, it sounds reasonable. It is always good to hold countries accountable, especially when we are talking about seeking justice for Holocaust survivors. But one of the big flaws of the 2009 Conference, and what this bill does by asking the Secretary to report on how governments are complying with these goals, is that it enshrines a principle of running out the clock on survivors. The principle, which is specifically highlighted in this bill, the JUST Act, is the notion of allowing governments to use the assets of heirless property claims to provide for other survivors' needs.

Essentially, what this is saying to the governments that have claims against them or that have obligations to survivors whom they must meet is: Go ahead. Stall as long as you can. Wait them out. Then use those assets to pay off your obligations.

How long have survivors had to wait now, Mr. Speaker? Over 70 years. And the longer they wait, the longer those states which have obligations to survivors are allowed to stall, the less that these states will be on the hook for.

Even worse, this rewards states for stalling. It compounds the injustice to survivors. Using property and assets that were denied to survivors for over seven decades to then pay off other survivors is sickening.

Every survivor deserves justice, and that includes all who have lived

through the unthinkable but are no longer with us today. This practice is nothing more than a smokescreen for Germany's and other Claims Conference failures to forthrightly provide for all survivors' needs.

Let's think about it this way, Mr. Speaker: The Claims Conference will support the idea of using heirless claims to provide for other survivors, sure, but will the Claims Conference support the idea that survivors still being denied their justice by the insurance companies should be allowed to sue those insurance companies in Federal court? Nope.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder why that is. If my colleagues want to support this bill and if they think that using heirless property to pay for the needs of other survivors is the best we can get, then fine. But I challenge each and every one of you to believe that we can do more, we must do more, and that we have a moral responsibility to do more for survivors.

Surely, if we can tell governments in Europe that it is okay to benefit from their unwillingness to resolve the outstanding property claims against them for 70 years, then we can tell our survivors that it is okay for them to go to Federal court and fight for their justice.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I ask unanimous consent that he control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emeritus of our committee, for her tireless work advocating on behalf of Holocaust survivors. Let me say at the outset here that no one in Congress, no one in this Congress, has done more to advocate on behalf of survivors than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and I believe that to be true through her entire tenure in this body.

Let me also explain the thoughts, as explained to us, behind our Senate colleagues that put together the JUST Act.

From their standpoint, from their vantage point, the JUST Act is a simple reporting requirement to assess the progress of signatories to the 2009 Terezin Declaration on Holocaust era assets and related issues. The goal there, of course, was to fulfill the principles in that declaration. A lot of time and effort went into trying to leverage that agreement out of 46 countries that agreed to these principles.

Now, here is the point; here is where we have a difference of opinion: of

those 46 countries, some of them are falling woefully short of their commitments.

Here are the conflict divisions. Some are saying, many are saying: Look, we need to put pressure on them.

The Senate unanimously came to the conclusion that a way to do that is with this bill, because what the legislation does is to ensure that there is an accountability mechanism of checking adherence to the declaration principles and to making sure that it doesn't fall by the wayside by bringing accountability to those countries that don't.

The injustices of the Holocaust, frankly, here today, those injustices are too many to name. Many are unaddressed in that declaration, and I concur from that standpoint. But, at the same time, we need to continue pushing to right the full spectrum of these wrongs.

Before us we have a bill which will bring much leverage. We cannot lose the headway that we have made toward compensating survivors and families for what was rightfully theirs.

Our partners have already agreed to the restitution principles in the declaration. A formal report that shows who has fallen short and how, it is argued by our colleagues in the Senate, would be a powerful instrument for the U.S. Government to push for changes.

From my standpoint, I understand the arguments being made by the Senate. It does not mean that we should not go forward to make other points. But the argument they make to us is let's give the State Department the tools it needs to ensure accountability. This is an argument that, on both sides of the aisle, the preponderance of Members here, I think, concur with.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about survivors being unable to sue the insurance companies in Federal court, how unjust that is. What a travesty.

First, they were forced to suffer the inhumanity of the Nazis during the Holocaust, treated as outsiders. Worse than that, there really are just no words to adequately describe how Jews were treated during the Nazi time. And now, for so many, they continue to face injustices on a daily basis.

One would think, Mr. Speaker, that those who endured and managed to make it here to America—home of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, where everyone is meant to have equal rights—would not have to face the harsh truth that they are still being treated no better than second-class citizens.

Imagine how survivors feel when they are told that, in America, almost anyone can have their rightful day in court—unless you are a Holocaust survivor with a claim against one of the big, rich, powerful insurance companies. In that case, you have no right to

your justice. You have no day in court. You are prohibited from bringing justice to the courts.

Countless survivors had valid insurance policies with insurance companies in Europe before the Holocaust, but when so many tried to make a claim on the policies of their loved ones, can you imagine what these companies told them?

The insurance companies have asked Holocaust survivors to show their policies, because, as we all know, Mr. Speaker, the Nazis just let the Jews of Europe take all of their important documentation and their most cherished possessions with them before they were hauled off for extermination—of course that did not happen.

Even worse, these big, rich, powerful insurance companies didn't just reject these claims due to the absence of policy documents. Many claims were rejected due to the absence of a death certificate—another paper that the insurance companies knew were not readily available. They did not pass them out in extermination camps. The relatives did not get a death certificate. But yet that is what insurance companies are asking of survivors.

Of course, we all know that policyholders aren't the only ones with the proper documentation. Allianz or any of those big, rich, powerful insurance companies aren't just going to take my word for it that I have a policy with them. Insurance companies are going to have their own documentation to validate the claim. They have that documentation.

But do insurance companies do this for survivors? Do they show them the claims? Of course not. And, unfortunately, there is nothing to compel these huge, rich, and powerful insurance companies to provide it and to pay off those claims.

These claims, by the way, Mr. Speaker, now run into the billions of dollars, so you can imagine why the insurance companies would fight so hard against allowing survivors to receive their claims.

This is not justice. This is just as immoral and as reprehensible as you can get. These rich and powerful insurance companies should be held liable, and they should be held accountable for these sins against morality and humanity.

That is the bill that we should be debating today, and that is why, for years, I have authored the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act, H.R. 762, in this Congress and I have worked side by side with so many survivors over the years who feel as if they are continuing to be victimized.

They ask me: Why can everyone else get their day in court like we are all entitled to, but not Holocaust survivors?

My bill is simple, Mr. Speaker. It will finally allow survivors the ability to bring their cases before the U.S. court system, and it allows them to have their day in court.

□ 1600

It does not prejudice the outcome of any case. It simply says survivors can face the insurance companies in court and seek redress. It will make the insurance companies open up their books and let the world know the truth.

If it is decided by the U.S. court system that these insurance companies have in fact been shirking their moral and legal responsibilities, then the appropriate course of action should be taken. But this cannot happen and these survivors cannot have their day in court unless we take steps to ensure that it can.

If we are here today to talk about justice for survivors, as this bill is called, let's talk about real action. Let's talk about doing something more than a simple reporting requirement with a fancy name. Let's talk about ending seven decades of injustice. Let's talk about ending impunity for these big, powerful, rich insurance companies. Let's talk about accountability.

Let's take up the JUST Act with the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act. Let's not allow ourselves to pass a reporting requirement and then pat ourselves on the back thinking the job is over. Let's get real justice for survivors.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the chair of the Democratic Caucus. He is also the sponsor of the House version of this bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from the Bronx, New York (Mr. ENGEL). He has been a true friend for many, many, many years. I thank him for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support today of S. 447, the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act. This important measure has already unanimously passed the Senate. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN had worked hard on this issue, on a bipartisan basis, and I am proud to have introduced the House version, as has been mentioned, along with my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). I appreciate the efforts of the chairman and the ranking member here in bringing the bill to the floor.

I was first approached about the lack of justice still facing Holocaust survivors by a gentleman from Queens, New York, Jehuda Evron. I am sorry that he cannot be here today to watch this debate, as he has spent a lifetime helping those who endured and escaped horrific atrocities during the Holocaust.

Jehuda has been an incredible campaigner for Holocaust survivors, along with his wife, Leah, who lived in the ghetto under a false identity and joined others in hiding with resistance fighters.

It was Jehuda and the World Jewish Restitution Organization who shared with me an ongoing indignity Holo-

caust survivors still face to this very day: the inability to reclaim property unlawfully seized during the Holocaust. This is property that, if restored, could have a significant impact for the far too many Holocaust survivors living in poverty today.

It may shock some to hear that, here in the United States, one-third of the Holocaust survivors live at or under the poverty line. That is despicable. Some survivors are so poor, they sometimes have to choose between food and medicine.

Their stories put in stark relief the lifelong impact the Holocaust had on an entire generation of families and survivors. That is why it is so important that in 2009, the United States, Israel, and 45 other countries signed the Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and Related Issues.

In that important measure, countries pledged to take steps to return assets looted by the Nazi government and others. Nine years later, there is still work to be done.

The JUST Act urges countries to keep their commitments to retribute wrongly taken Holocaust Era Assets, and it will continue to shine a light on the ongoing struggle of survivors to reclaim the property that is rightfully theirs.

If you walk out the front door of this building and head down the street, you will find yourself at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It is a powerful institution and one that reminds us of not only the heroic role played by the United States in World War II, but the tremendous suffering faced by the Jewish people and all victims of the Holocaust.

For me, it is also a reminder that if we can take steps to right more of the wrongs committed during the Holocaust, we should take the opportunity to do so. I believe that this bill is an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost respect for the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). She knows my affection for her. We have been friends for over 20 years. I respect her opposition to this because I know that she does want justice for the victims. That is her goal.

But I just want to say, for the record, that this bill is supported by the World Jewish Restitution Organization, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Federations of North America, B'nai B'rith International, HIAS Refugee Assistance Organization, the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and the Orthodox Union.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize those organizations that are in full support of this legislation, with all due respect to a woman I have tremendous respect for.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in order to close my part of this debate on the bill, I want

to reiterate that, though I strongly oppose the JUST Act—it is smoke and mirrors and it gives you the feel-good moment and provides no justice for survivors, in spite of its fancy name—I do believe that my colleagues do have good intentions and they want to see Holocaust survivors finally get the justice that has for so long evaded them.

Their words and their remarks are heartfelt. They just don't apply to this bill. They would more rightly apply to the bill that I have and that I hope this body will soon take up. In fact, this body took action last Congress when the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, or the HEAR Act, was passed and signed into law.

This was an important bill. It actually helped. That bill allowed for civil claims or causes of action for the recovery of artwork stolen from Jews by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

In other words, we have acted to ensure that Holocaust victims can bring claims in U.S. courts to recover their looted artwork and other possessions. They can have their day in court, and I am glad for it. If you lost a famous painting and there have been movies and books written about it, you can have your day in court. That is wonderful.

But since HEAR was passed, or the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act, it has already been cited in several cases and has been applied by the Ninth Circuit Court to revive a previously dismissed Nazi-era art case. That is great. So why not take action to allow the same process to take place for survivors to hold insurance companies accountable?

If you had your artwork looted by the Nazis, you can have your day in court. But if the Nazis have destroyed your life, and you had an insurance company policy, you do not have the right to take that case to court. It doesn't make sense.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate justice for uncompensated survivors of the Holocaust. A simple reporting requirement isn't going to do that. We shouldn't have to be taking such action. Unfortunately, because certain governments haven't lived up to their obligations and because these insurance companies and others complicit in Nazi-era crimes still manage to evade accountability, we have a moral obligation to step into action. That is the message that I am giving to my colleagues.

If we want to pass the JUST Act, so be it. But let's also vow here and now to take more concrete action to really get justice for Holocaust survivors. Let's take that next big step. Time is running out. Time is running out for all of these survivors and we need action yesterday—not today, but today will do.

I am asking my colleagues to do the right thing, and I am asking for this body, Mr. Speaker, to bring the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act to the floor as soon as possible so that we

can take a meaningful step, a concrete step, an action item toward justice for survivors. And then, all of those lofty words that are laid upon the table on this bill that don't really apply, would really apply to this bill, the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act. We owe it to the survivors. We owe it to their families.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), who is a very well-respected member of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Ranking Member ENGEL, for his hard work on this bill and for yielding. I thank Chairman ROYCE as well.

I want to thank the many Members of Congress who have shown their unyielding commitment to caring for Holocaust survivors and ensuring that their needs are met, including the cosponsors of this bill, and, of course, the House bill's sponsors, Congressman CROWLEY and Congressman SMITH.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her tireless efforts throughout her career on behalf of Holocaust survivors in our community in south Florida and everywhere they live.

Two weeks after we marked Yom HaShoah, it is fitting that Congress would consider this bill. I hope that the world is watching, because every year that we move away from the horrible atrocities of the Holocaust, we lose more and more survivors.

They are the people who survived Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor, and other Nazi death camps. They are the people who survived the attempted genocide against them. Six million Jews perished. We must remember that every single victim, those who perished and those who survived, had a story. They had homes, they had businesses, family heirlooms, and personal possessions. As the Nazis stormed through Europe to wipe out European Jewry, they stole everything they could as they sent Jews to their death.

While no amount of money will ever erase these horrors, these survivors, their families, and their heirs deserve compensation for confiscated property, including Jewish communal, private, and heirless property.

In 2009, the United States joined 46 other countries and agreed to the Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets. This was a commitment by these countries to provide for the restitution of confiscated property. But 9 years later, many European countries have still failed to meet their commitments in this agreement. Some countries still haven't passed legislation to create for private property restitution, and we should call out their failures.

As we speak, thousands of survivors are in need of immediate and urgent

care and assistance. I am proud to represent a large community of survivors, and I see their critical needs going unmet day after day. This bill can be a tool to help us understand where the gaps lie in restitution programs, but it does not address, nor is it meant to address, the urgent need of survivors now. As they age, their needs grow. It is essential they receive the care they deserve. We must do everything to ensure that those needs are addressed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

This legislation is critical to ensuring that Holocaust survivors and their heirs are compensated. Restitution and return will represent another step moving past this heinous chapter of human history.

I want to thank my colleague and good friend, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, for her powerful remarks this afternoon and for her leadership for so many years in fighting for Holocaust survivors. I have met many of her constituents and many of my own who remain engaged in this prolonged battle for justice. I am a cosponsor of Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN's legislation, and I proudly support her in these efforts. I do hope that her bill will come to the floor as well.

□ 1615

I also support Congressmen CROWLEY and SMITH, as well as Senators BALDWIN and RUBIO, in the effort to ensure that property is restituted and returned through the JUST Act. This legislation has already passed the Senate; so when we pass it here, it will go right to the President's desk for signing. With this vote, we can push it across the finish line.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have been contacted on behalf of the JUST Act by a number of organizations in support of the Senate bill. The major American Jewish organizations supporting this measure are the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federations of North America, the B'nai B'rith, the HIAS refugee assistance organization, Union for Reform Judaism, Orthodox Union, World Jewish Restitution Organization, and others; and they have argued that the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act, or JUST Act, as the Senate calls it, is a measure that will have an outsized impact in encouraging countries to continue working to make amends for the evils of the Holocaust. That is what drove the Senate to pass this bill.

Now, just to go into the details again a little bit: it was in 2009 that rep-

resentatives of this country and 40 other countries agreed to a set of principles to address the welfare of survivors, to address Holocaust education, and to address issues related to restitution for seized property, among other issues.

Now, that is what these 40 nations committed to. So 10 years have passed, approximately, and it is time that we take stock of the work under way because, while a number of these partner countries have made great strides to uphold their commitments under the agreement, you and I know—everybody here knows—that some countries have fallen short.

And this legislation, which charges the State Department with the responsibility for this important report—and let's call it naming and shaming; that is basically what is intended here—gives the United States another tool to seek justice for Holocaust survivors, to seek justice for the families of Holocaust victims. And it is our hope that passing this bill will motivate improvements even before the report is penned. Already we have seen some of these countries overseas renew their engagement on this issue, and that is the leverage that we want to deploy.

It is a devastating issue to even begin a discussion because we can never compensate Holocaust survivors truly for the unbelievable horror and devastation that they suffered. But from the perspective of most of the organizations that have talked to us about the bill, their point would be: We can try. We can try to restore what is rightfully theirs. And part of the trying, from their standpoint, is to shed light on the efforts, or lack thereof, that other countries are making. And this bill does that. It unanimously passed the Senate for that reason.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members here who participated today in the debate over this very difficult issue, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 447.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOSTAGE-TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4744) to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4744

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 “Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Iran is a member of the United Nations, voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties.

(2) In violation of these and other international obligations, Iranian regime officials continue to violate the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people.

(3) The Iranian regime persecutes ethnic and religious minority groups, such as the Baha’is, Christians, Sufi, Sunni, and dissenting Shi’a Muslims (such as imprisoned Ayatollah Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi), through harassment, arrests, and imprisonment, during which detainees have routinely been beaten, tortured, and killed.

(4) Following voting irregularities that resulted in the 2009 election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian regime brutally suppressed peaceful political dissent from wide segments of civil society during the Green Revolution in a cynical attempt to retain its undemocratic grip on power.

(5) Since February 2011 the leaders of Iran’s Green Movement, former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, his wife Dr. Zahra Rahnavard, and former Speaker of the Majles (parliament) Mehdi Karroubi, have lived under strict house arrest, ordered by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

(6) In 1999 the Iranian regime brutally suppressed a student revolt that was one of the largest mass uprisings up until that point in the country since 1979.

(7) Over a 4-month period in 1988, the Iranian regime carried out the barbaric mass executions of thousands of political prisoners by hanging and firing squad for refusing to renounce their political affiliations and in some cases for possessing political reading material, including prisoners of conscience, teenagers, and pregnant women. In a recently disclosed audiotape, the late Hussein Ali Montazeri, a grand ayatollah who served as former Supreme leader Khomeini’s chief deputy, said that the 1988 mass killings were “the greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us”.

(8) Senior governmental, military, and public security officials in Iran have continued ordering, controlling, and committing egregious human rights violations that, in many cases, represent official policies of the Iranian regime.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that the United States should—

(1) deny the Government of Iran the ability to continue to oppress the people of Iran and to use violence and executions to silence pro-democracy protestors;

(2) work with international partners to investigate human rights violations by senior officials of the Government of Iran, regardless of where or when such violations took place;

(3) support efforts made by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, non-corrupt and democratic political system;

(4) condemn Iranian human rights abuses against dissidents, including the massacre in 1988 and the suppression of political demonstrations in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide family members detailed information that they

were denied about the final resting places of any missing victims of such abuses; and

(5) help the people of Iran produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the internet and other media.

(c) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to stand with the people of Iran who seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choosing, and increase the utilization of all available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, ENGAGING IN CENSORSHIP, ENGAGING IN THE DIVERSION OF GOODS INTENDED FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN, OR ENGAGING IN CORRUPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing a determination of whether any senior officials of the Government of Iran or other Iranian persons meet the criteria described in—

(1) subsection (b) of section 105D of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as added by section 5 of this Act; or

(2) paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1263(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

(b) **REVIEW OF CERTAIN ENTITIES.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall contain a review of any activities of cooperative foundations or bonyads in Iran with a capitalization that exceeds \$200,000,000 and that meet the criteria in paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1263(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) for purposes of corruption.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—

(1) **FORM.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(2) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The unclassified portion of such report shall be made available to the public and posted on the internet website of the Department of the Treasury—

(A) in English, Farsi, Arabic, and Azeri; and

(B) in precompressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HOSTAGE-TAKING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 1979 the Iranian regime has engaged in various destabilizing activities that undermine the national security of the United States and its allies and partners.

(2) These activities include the hostage-taking or prolonged arbitrary detentions of United States citizens and other persons with connections to Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and other nations allied with the United States.

(3) The Iranian regime has detained on fabricated claims a significant number of

United States citizens, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi and Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal permanent resident, Nizar Zakka, in violation of international legal norms.

(4) The Iranian regime has not provided information on the whereabouts of or assistance in ensuring the prompt and safe return of Robert Levinson, despite repeated promises to do so, after he was kidnapped while visiting Iran’s Kish Island on March 9, 2007—making him the longest held hostage in United States history.

(5) The Iranian regime reportedly uses hostages as leverage against foreign investors to exact business concessions in foreign investment deals.

(6) The type of hostage-taking enterprise put in place by the Iranian regime is a crime against humanity and a violation of customary international law.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Administration should fully utilize all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens, to include—

(A) the use of extradition to try and convict those individuals responsible for ordering or controlling the hostage-taking or arbitrary detention of United States citizens; and

(B) the use of the Department of Homeland Security’s Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center to target such individuals; and

(2) the United States should encourage its allies and other affected countries to pursue the criminal prosecution and extradition of state and non-state actors in Iran that assist in or benefit from such hostage-taking to prevent such state and non-state actors from engaging in this practice in the future.

(c) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States Government not to pay ransom for the purpose of securing the release of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens taken hostage abroad.

(d) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains a strategy to prevent elements of the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should coordinate with United States allies and other allies and partners whose citizens may be subject to politically-motivated detention or trial in Iran, to apply sanctions against Iranian persons that are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, such detention or trial.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Title I of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after section 105C (22 U.S.C. 8514c) the following:

“SEC. 105D. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 105(c)

with respect to each person on the list required by subsection (b).

“(b) LIST OF IRANIAN PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of Iranian persons that the President determines, are knowingly—

“(A) responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering or otherwise directing, the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, or extended detention or trial of citizens of the United States or United States legal permanent resident aliens, regardless of whether such actions occurred in Iran; or

“(B) responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering or otherwise directing, the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, or extended detention or trial of Iranians, Iranian residents, or persons of Iranian origin outside of Iran.

“(2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

“(A) each time the President is required to submit an updated list to those committees under section 105(b)(2)(A); and

“(B) as new information becomes available.

“(3) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

“(A) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the list required by paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the websites of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State.

“(C) APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to impose sanctions described in paragraph (2) with respect to each person that is a family member of any person on the list required by subsection (b).

“(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

“(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, is a family member of any person on the list required by subsection (b) is—

“(i) inadmissible to the United States;

“(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

“(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

“(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who is a family member of any person on the list required by subsection (b) regardless of when issued.

“(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i)—

“(I) shall take effect immediately; and

“(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

“(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United

States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

“(4) DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBER.—In this section, the term ‘family member’ means, with respect to an individual—

“(A) a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent of the individual; and

“(B) a spouse's child, parent, or sibling.

“(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The provisions of this section shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President—

“(1) determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran is no longer complicit in or responsible for the wrongful and unlawful detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens; and

“(2) transmits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 105(d) of this Act.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 105C the following new item:

“Sec. 105D. Imposition of sanctions with respect to Iranian persons who engage in certain actions against United States citizens or Iranian persons.”.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Section 401 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and 305” and inserting “, 105D, and 305”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “or 105C(a)” and inserting “105C(a), or 105D(a)”; and

(B) by striking “or 105C(b)” and inserting “105C(b), or 105D(b)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 4744, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in January this body came together. It was a near unanimous vote to support the Iranian people, who were engaged in legitimate protests against a very oppressive regime. I want to thank Mr. MIKE MCCAUL here, chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, the ranking member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs, for their engagement in this issue.

At the time, we were witnessing tens of thousands of Iranians who had taken

to the streets in the largest demonstration that we had seen since the Green Revolution of 2009. The protests, aimed at economic stagnation, aimed at widespread corruption—and people were talking about that all the time—aimed at the Revolutionary Guard Corps' control over that economy because they had nationalized, seized, so much of that economy. And quickly we saw that spread across Iran, as Persians sought to exercise the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as people across that country, of every ethnicity and every religion, began to speak out.

Many demonstrators shouted slogans aimed at Iran's costly support for Syria's Bashar al-Assad, if you recall, from reading the press accounts. And they attacked, they argued about the cost, the support that went to the terrorist groups such as Hezbollah. Predictably, the Iranian regime moved swiftly to quash the demonstrations and throttle social media.

More than 1,000 Iranians were jailed, dozens were killed. H. Res. 676 condemned this brutal violence back in January, called for targeted sanctions to hold the regime to account. But today we act to make good on that call, because the bill before us today, Chairman MCCAUL's H.R. 4744, requires the administration to determine whether senior Iranian officials should be sanctioned for human rights abuses. And it also requires determinations on whether Iranian businesses should be sanctioned for public corruption with respect to those who are involved in corruption. And it mandates sanctions on those officials responsible for Iran's wrongful, politically motivated jailing of U.S. citizens.

Mr. Speaker, for years the regime in Tehran has systematically beat down all opposition inside Iran. It regularly uses brutal tactics back in Iran, including torture and mass executions, as it seeks to export violence and radical ideology abroad as well. I think all of us can think back to that 1979 revolution and contemplate how much better Iran would have been had it not went off onto a path of becoming a rogue state.

As this legislation details, today the regime flagrantly disregards commitments it has made to respect the fundamental rights of the Iranian people. Many of us recall the barbaric mass executions carried out over a 4-month period in 1988. And I dare say, if you know any Persians, if you know people who escaped from Iran, you know that, during that period of time leading up to 1988, there were over 30,000 students and young professionals who lost their lives as a consequence.

We know that the political prisoners there went through a grueling experience, in Evin Prison and other prisons. Many were executed by hanging, many by firing squad. They refused to renounce their political affiliations, and that was the fate that was handed out to them.

And today the regime still persecutes ethnic and religious minority groups; such as, the Baha'i; Christians, of course; Sufi; Sunni; dissenting Shia Muslims. And we all remember the way the ayatollah brutally suppressed the peaceful political dissent during the Green Revolution, during which the previous administration remained embarrassingly silent, in my view. And many of us here on this floor today spoke up often at that time about that dissent during the Green Revolution, because I think this was a real opportunity missed by the United States.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL and I want to thank Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership on this legislation. I am glad we have strong bipartisan support for this measure. Regardless of how one views the Iran nuclear agreement, it is critical that the United States and our allies continue to press Iran for its dangerous and threatening acts that fall outside of the JCPOA.

This is an area where officials from both the Trump and Obama administrations agree, and they agree for good reason here. Remember, this is the same regime that is holding American citizens, including one who is in very poor health, on sham charges in one of the largest ransom schemes, from my standpoint, that was ever devised.

This regime, of course, held its first American hostages in 1979, when it overran our U.S. Embassy. The regime's MO remains the same. It is far past time the regime faced consequences for its attacks on Iranians and Americans alike.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2018.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4744, the "Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act," on which Ways and Means was granted an additional referral.

As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4744 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive formal consideration of this bill so that it may move expeditiously to the floor. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the

Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4744.

Sincerely,
KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2018.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4744 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2018.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4744, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4744 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,
JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from

further consideration of H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4744 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I write with respect to H.R. 4744, the "Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 4744 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4744 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4744 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,
BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4744 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure. Let me start by thanking Congressmen DEUTCH and MCCAUL, both valued members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for their hard work on this bill. I want to also thank Chairman ED ROYCE, who has been a strong bipartisan voice in things that are so important to our country and to the world. We always say that we take pride in having the Committee on Foreign Affairs being the most bipartisan committee in the entire Congress.

Iran has isolated itself on the global stage because it refuses to abandon a range of aggressive activities that pose a threat to the region and a threat to the entire international community. On that list is the regime's terrible mistreatment of its own people and its heinous practice of prolonged and politically motivated detentions of American citizens.

The bill before us now seeks to put an end to these intolerable practices. It would place sanctions on anyone responsible for politically motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, extended detention, or trial of Americans or Iranians.

Earlier this year, we stood on this floor in solidarity with protestors in Iran who sought a better future for their country and for the next generation. They wanted to see their government abandon its support for Iranian proxy forces and terrorist groups, like Hezbollah, in favor of funding healthcare and employment opportunities for average Iranians.

This is a country that has suffered so much under the ayatollahs and the economic mismanagement of its leaders. The protests in December and January were a stark reminder of the regime's tight grip on power, as many protesters were killed in the streets and blocked from communicating with the outside world.

Today, as we pass this legislation, we think about the Americans who currently sit in Iranian prisons. We think about Robert Levinson, Mr. DEUTCH's constituent, who has been missing for over 11 years, who has missed the weddings of his children and the births of his grandchildren.

□ 1630

The Iranian regime had promised to cooperate with the investigation to locate Mr. Levinson, but to this date, that cooperation has been virtually nonexistent.

There is no real clarity in U.S. policy toward Iran. The United States faces a

looming deadline on the nuclear deal, and the future remains uncertain. But there is one thing we can all agree on: we cannot let up the pressure on Iran for its human rights violations, particularly against American citizens.

So, again, I want to thank Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. DEUTCH for doing a great job with this. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation. If you care about the injustices going on in Iran, then it is important to support this bill.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and the author of this bill.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my bill to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its continued human rights violations.

I introduced the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act with Congressman DEUTCH, and I am grateful for Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL's support in this effort.

The Iranian regime continues to perpetrate gross human rights abuses against its own people. They continue to suppress and censor their people's calls for democratic reform. They recklessly use their nation's resources to expand their destabilizing influence and support of terrorism. They continue to engage in corrupt practices, and they continue to illegally detain and imprison our citizens without just cause. This is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this bill serves as a clear signal to the people of Iran that we support their quest for freedom. It shines a light on the regime's human rights violations and targets Iranian officials guilty of corruption, censorship, and the diversion of goods intended for the Iranian people. It requires the President to work with our international partners to develop a strategy to end this inhumane behavior and sanctions those officials complicit in those crimes. Finally, it sanctions those individuals who take Americans hostage.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are more than six American citizens and permanent U.S. residents held by the Iranian regime in a shameful attempt to use innocent human lives as political bargaining chips. These hostages include: Bob Levinson, Congressman DEUTCH's constituent, who has been missing since 2007 and remains America's longest held hostage; Siamak Namazi and his 81-year-old father, Baquer, held since 2015 and 2016, respectively; Ph.D. student, Xiyue Wang, held since 2017; internet freedom activist, Nizar Zakka, held since 2016; and others.

The United States has a moral responsibility to devote resources to these hostages and make their return a priority. I sent a letter with Congressman LIEU and 46 other Members of Congress requesting that the administra-

tion keep Congress informed as to what steps they are taking to guarantee this happens.

So, again, I thank the chairman and ranking member, Congressman DEUTCH, for their leadership on this bipartisan effort to hold Iran accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter dated April 23, 2018.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2018.

Hon. JOHN J. SULLIVAN,
Acting Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR ACTING SECRETARY SULLIVAN: We write to request information regarding the Administration's efforts to secure the release of American citizens and permanent U.S. residents held hostage by the government of Iran.

As you know, Iran has a long history of unjustly holding hostages in violation of international law dating back to 1979. Over the years, the Iranian regime has arrested dozens of foreigners on spurious charges and convicted them in sham trials held in secretive courts. Many of the detained American citizens and permanent residents are also held in deplorable conditions, where they experience severe health and psychological issues.

Today, there are more than six American citizens and permanent U.S. residents held by the Iranian regime in a shameful attempt to use innocent human lives as political bargaining chips. These hostages include Bob Levinson, who has been missing since 2007 and remains America's longest-held hostage; Siamak Namazi and his 81-year-old father Baquer, held since 2015 and 2016, respectively; PhD student Xiyue Wang, held since 2016; internet freedom activist Nizar Zakka, held since 2016; and others. The United States has a moral responsibility to devote resources to these hostages and make their return a priority.

This past month, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, to increase U.S. leverage by levying new sanctions on those responsible for detaining U.S. citizens or legal permanent respondents in Iran. But more sticks must be complemented with a coordinated diplomatic effort with our allies.

According to media reports, the State Department has increased efforts in recent months to secure the release of these hostages, including outreach to the Iranian regime in December 2017 that has gone unanswered. On April 6, 2018, the Department outlined efforts that have been undertaken in a report to Congress pursuant to Section 110 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. We request that the Department provide some additional details to Congress. Specifically, please provide answers to the following questions in either written responses or a briefing:

1. How has Iran responded to the various lines of effort made by the U.S., as detailed in the April 6 report to Congress, to raise the detention cases?

2. According to a June 20, 2017, article from the Washington Post, two senior officials from the Trump administration stated a range of options were being considered, which included "sticks more than carrots." What specific tools are being considered to secure the release of detained Americans and permanent U.S. residents?

3. Does the Administration require any new authorities from Congress to utilize these tools?

4. What is the Administration's strategy for disincentivizing and deterring foreign

governments, particularly Iran, from taking Americans and permanent U.S. residents hostage in the future?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ted W. Lieu, Member of Congress; Michael McCaul, Member of Congress; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Member of Congress; Ted Deutch, Member of Congress; James P. McGovern, Member of Congress; Brian Fitzpatrick, Member of Congress; Donald M. Payne, Jr., Member of Congress; Randy Hultgren, Member of Congress; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress; Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress; Steve Cohen, Member of Congress; Bobby L. Rush, Member of Congress; David N. Cicilline, Member of Congress; Nita M. Lowey, Member of Congress; José E. Serrano, Member of Congress.

Daniel W. Lipinski, Member of Congress; Joe Wilson, Member of Congress; Peter King, Member of Congress; Francis Rooney, Member of Congress; Mark Meadows, Member of Congress; Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress; Brad Sherman, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Lee Zeldin, Member of Congress; Steve Chabot, Member of Congress; Paul Cook, Member of Congress; Eliot Engel, Member of Congress; Ted Poe, Member of Congress; Bradley S. Schneider, Member of Congress; Grace Meng, Member of Congress.

Tom Suozzi, Member of Congress; Pete Sessions, Member of Congress; Albio Sires, Member of Congress; Frank Pallone, Jr., Member of Congress; Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., Member of Congress; John Ratcliffe, Member of Congress; Josh Gottheimer, Member of Congress; Lois Frankel, Member of Congress; Derek Kilmer, Member of Congress; Patrick Meehan, Member of Congress; Leonard Lance, Member of Congress; Randy Weber, Member of Congress; Bill Johnson, Member of Congress; David P. Joyce, Member of Congress; Adam Kinzinger, Member of Congress; Elise Stefanik, Member of Congress.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE for their support of this legislation, and I give special thanks to my colleague, Chairman MCCAUL, for his leadership in recognizing the need to take action.

We must work together to stop the brutal Iranian regime's human rights abuses and demand the release of American hostages that Iran is using as pawns for political leverage. I am proud to partner with Mr. MCCAUL in this effort.

The Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act sends a clear message to the Iranian regime and to the rest of the world: this Congress, this country will not tolerate the flagrant disregard of the most basic of human rights.

My colleagues have explained the merits of this bill, and I know it is difficult for many Americans to imagine, but we are here today to show our resolve in the face of really unbelievable circumstances.

For my constituents, the family of Robert Levinson, this is a nightmare that they have lived for 11 years. Bob

Levinson is the longest held American hostage in history. He disappeared in Iran on March 9, 2007.

Imagine 11 years without your husband or your father.

Imagine having grandchildren who have never had the chance to meet their grandfather.

Imagine 11 anniversaries, dozens of family birthdays, and holidays that pass by without Bob, just an empty place where Bob should be sitting.

Bob's wife, Christine, and his seven children—Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, Dan, David, Samantha, and Doug—have been tireless advocates for their father. They have traveled to Iran themselves looking for answers. They have made the trip to Washington, D.C., countless times to meet with government officials and Members of Congress.

They have fought for action all the way to the Oval Office, directly appealing to President Bush, President Obama, and President Trump. They have watched as others have returned home to their families. They have listened with hope as Iran's leaders have promised cooperation. They have been disappointed more times than they can count as promises go unfulfilled year after year after year.

Iran has become adept at this cruel game, because that is what it is to this rogue Iranian regime. They say that hostages are not hostages, but these people are not detained under a legal order. They have lost their freedom; they have been separated from their families; and they have been held under shamelessly trumped-up and false charges. Any attempt to show due process or trials has been a sham.

To the Levinsons, to the Namazi family, the Zakka family, the Wang family, and the other families whose loved ones are being held, we stand with you. Today, we speak clearly and loudly with one bipartisan voice to send a message that no country, no rogue regime will use American lives as leverage to further a dangerous agenda.

This bill isn't about the nuclear deal. Nothing in this deal precludes our continued participation in the JCPOA. But this bill makes clear the importance of closely coordinating with our allies and partners whose citizens have also been held hostage by Iran to apply pressure on the regime.

If we are going to counter Iran's abuses, Iran's terrorism, Iran's threats to our troops and our national security interests, we must work in tandem with our partners around the globe. We will stand together against repression and the violation of human rights. We will stand together against religious persecution. We will stand together for the rule of law and democratic values.

Taking hostages and violating the most fundamental values that cut to the core of our dignity as human beings is unacceptable to this Congress and to members of the international community. I urge all of my colleagues to stand up to Iran's rogue regime, to

stand up for human rights and for the people of Iran, to stand with the Levinsons and the other families whose loved ones are missing from their lives, and to fight for their return home by supporting this bill.

Please support H.R. 4744, and together we will stand for basic human rights.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for his kindness and his leadership, and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, my favorite mensch, for bringing this bill to the floor today. I also want to thank and congratulate MICHAEL MCCAUL and my south Florida colleague and dear friend TED DEUTCH for their work in offering this important bill.

The regime in Iran, as we have heard from my colleagues, is responsible for some of the most despicable human rights abuses imaginable. The regime is also notorious for its hostage-taking tactics, hoping to get financial or political concessions from the United States and other Western countries for their hostage taking.

Mr. DEUTCH and I have been highlighting these abuses in our subcommittee through multiple hearings and many pieces of legislation, including a resolution that the House passed last year, H. Res. 317, that urged the President to make the release of Americans held hostage in Iran the highest of priorities.

We also held a hearing on some of the hostages named in the resolution where we heard from family members of Mr. DEUTCH's constituent Bob Levinson, who is America's longest held hostage ever; Baquer and Siamak Namazi, father and son, who have been unjustly detained in Iran for far too long; Nizar Zakka. All of these families have had to endure so much, Mr. Speaker.

Almost 1 year later after our resolution, all of these men as well as at least four other Americans, additional Americans, continue to be unjustly detained in Iran, suffering under horrific conditions with little to no contact with their families.

Iran must be held accountable, Mr. Speaker. We need to be applying maximum pressure against the regime. This bill gives the administration more tools to sanction the regime for this practice of taking hostages, and I offer my full support.

I thank the esteemed chairman of our committee, as well as my friend, the ranking member. I thank the chairman for the time.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime is the number one state sponsor of terror in the whole world, and they commit terrorist acts even against their own people.

I am proud to support H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, introduced by my friend, Chairman MCCAUL.

The mullahs in Tehran are among the world's worst human rights abusers. This year, we have witnessed their brutality again on display as they continue to mercilessly crush dissent from their own people.

International attention has faded, but the Iranian people are still in the streets demanding their rights, whether they be economic opportunity, access to water, religious freedom, or gender equality. In response, the regime has murdered dozens and locked up thousands, as it has done so many times before, without punishment from the outside world.

This is nothing new for the Islamic Republic. Look no further than the 1988 massacre, where 30,000 of Iran's political prisoners were systematically murdered by the regime.

This barbaric mass execution occurred by public hangings, firing squads, and included teenagers and pregnant women who refused to announce their political affiliations, including many from the MEK, today's leading Iranian dissident group.

So horrific was the act that deputy to Iran's ruler at the time, Ayatollah Khomeini, called it: "The greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic for which history will condemn us." And, yes, history now condemns the regime for these acts of murder.

This bill will provide for that condemnation and call for investigation into this crime against humanity. It also urges our government to work with international partners and investigate other major human rights abuses, such as the dozens more killed during protests in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and sanction those responsible.

In all cases, the families of those murdered by the regime were never told what happened to their loved ones' remains. This important bill will pressure the Iranian Government to disclose the final resting place of the missing so their families may have a small bit of peace.

Mr. Speaker, now is the day of reckoning for the Iranian regime.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the United States and Iran's leaders are at odds on a host of issues. Iran has killed Americans in Iraq. Its proxies seek to harm our citizens and our interests around the world. But let me be clear: the United States has no quarrel with the Iranian people.

□ 1645

This legislation seeks to protect the human rights of the Iranian people and

Americans who are unfairly detained in Iran. This bill signals our solidarity with the protestors and demonstrators to Iran's rulers that any action that violates the human rights of an American will be met with severe consequences.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) just mentioned the 1988 massacre that was horrendous, and there were many, many more. This brutal regime has blood on its hands, and it is important for the United States to call them out.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would again like to thank my colleagues, Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member ENGEL, for their bipartisan leadership to hold Iran accountable, to hold them accountable for their brutality: their brutality in the 1988 massacres, and their brutality in terms of the way they are treating their religious minorities today.

We know that Americans formerly imprisoned by Iran describe being subjected to electric shock and whippings. We have heard that before our committee. We have heard them say that they were denied medical care.

Today, U.S. citizens, such as Siamak and Baqer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, and U.S. permanent resident Nazar Zaka, are all sitting in Iranian jails on bogus accusations of collaborating with a hostile government for espionage. And U.S. citizen Robert Levinson is still missing, and that is more than 10 years after he disappeared in Iran. Our hearts go out to these victims and our hearts go out to their families as we renew our call for the immediate release of all U.S. citizens and permanent residents held in Iran.

With this legislation, we will impose tough sanctions on the regime. And we do that for its corruption, for its attacks on innocent Americans, and for its attacks on Iranians alike.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, introduced by my fellow Texas delegate Congressman Michael McCall and fellow House Judiciary colleague Congressman Ted Deutch.

H.R. 4744 states that Congress stands with the people of Iran, and it provides the Trump administration with the tools necessary to hold Iranian government officials responsible for human rights violations, corruption, and censorship.

Moreover, this legislation holds the Iranian regime accountable for taking hostage American citizens and permanent residents by ensuring that those responsible pay an extreme but just price for the violations committed.

I applaud the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their support in passing this critical piece of legislation.

And I sincerely hope that this bill passes the Senate and arrives at the President's desk to

be promptly signed into law so we can begin to hold the Iranian regime accountable for their gross human rights violations.

The Iranian regime continues to perpetuate gross human rights abuses against its own people.

The regime continues to suppress the country's voices for reform through censorship of the media.

The regime continues to recklessly use the nation's resources to expand its regional influence through its support for terrorist groups.

The regime continues to engage in corrupt practices.

And the regime continues to illegally detain and imprison our citizens without just cause or reason.

These practices are unacceptable.

H.R. 4744 serves as a clear signal to the people of Iran that we support them in their quest for freedom, it shines a light on the regime's human rights violations and sanctions those who are complicit in such crimes.

The same goes for Iranian officials guilty of corruption, censorship, and the diversion of goods intended for the Iranian people.

Lastly, this bill sanctions individuals complicit in taking Americans and other nation's citizens hostage and requires the President to work with our international partners to develop a strategy to put an end to this practice.

We have five Americans currently detained in Iran—an intolerable circumstance that calls for action.

We must do all we can, and apply as much pressure on Iran as necessary to ensure the American detainees' safe release, and prevent future Americans from being held hostage by this brutal regime.

I thank Congressman MCCAUL and DEUTCH for their leadership on this legislation to hold Iran's corrupt officials accountable.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill's passage, and the passage of all the important measure before us today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4744, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NO ASSISTANCE FOR ASSAD ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4681) to limit assistance for areas of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria or associated forces, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4681

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 “No Assistance for Assad Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Seven years into the conflict in Syria, over 11 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes and more than 400,000 have been killed.

(2) Since the conflict in Syria began, the United States has provided more than \$7.6 billion to meet humanitarian needs of the Syrian people, making the United States the world’s single largest donor to the Syrian humanitarian response.

(3) It is estimated that the reconstruction of Syria could cost between \$200 and \$350 billion.

(4) According to the 2016 Transparency International Corruption Index, Syria is among the most corrupt countries in the world.

(5) In October 2015, a visiting Russian delegation to Syria announced that Russian firms would lead in the effort to rebuild Syria, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reportedly said, “Syria is ready to provide Russian companies with all the contracts worth hundreds of billions of dollars.”

(6) In August 2017, the Government of the People’s Republic of China hosted a trade fair in Syria, and a Chinese-Arab business group announced a \$2,000,000,000 commitment from the Chinese government to fund the construction of industrial parks in Syria.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that United States foreign assistance made available for early recovery, reconstruction, or stabilization in Syria should be used only in a democratic Syria or in areas of Syria not controlled by a government led by Bashar al-Assad or associated forces.

SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS OF SYRIA CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA OR ASSOCIATED FORCES.

(a) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023, amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for assistance described in paragraph (2) may not be provided, directly or indirectly, for any area of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria or associated forces, as determined by the Secretary of State, unless a certification described in subsection (b) is in effect.

(2) ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Assistance referred to in paragraph (1) is the following:

(A) Assistance to carry out stabilization activities for the relevant area.

(B) Assistance to carry out reconstruction activities for the relevant area.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A certification described in this subsection is a certification submitted by the President to the appropriate congressional committees that contains a determination that the Government of Syria—

(A) has ceased attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and the indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment, as demanded in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015);

(B) is taking verifiable steps to release all political prisoners and is providing full access to Syrian prisons for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations;

(C) is taking verifiable steps to remove from government positions senior officials of the Government of Syria who are complicit

in the planning or commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or human rights abuses, as well as any government official subject to sanctions under any provision of law;

(D) is organizing free and fair elections for a new government to be held in a timely manner and under the supervision of United Nations observers, with all Syrians, including members of the diaspora, eligible to participate, as supported in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015);

(E) is making tangible progress toward establishing an independent judiciary;

(F) is demonstrating respect for and compliance with internationally recognized human rights and basic freedoms as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(G) is taking steps to verifiably fulfill its commitments under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is making tangible progress toward becoming a signatory to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, and adhering to the Missile Technology Control Regime and other control lists, as necessary;

(H) has halted the development and deployment of ballistic and cruise missiles;

(I) is taking verifiable steps to remove from positions of authority within the military, intelligence, and security services those individuals who were in a position of authority or responsibility during the conflict, or who are in a position of authority or responsibility during a transition, who are determined to be responsible for or complicit in the torture, extrajudicial killing, or execution of civilians, to include those who were involved the planning or execution of plans to use chemical weapons;

(J) is making verifiable progress in reforming the Syrian military and security services so as to minimize the Government of Syria’s reliance on Iran and Iranian proxy forces to act on behalf or in support of Syria; and

(K) is in the process of organizing the safe and voluntary return of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes so that Syrians may return without fear of retribution by the Government of Syria or associated forces.

(2) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—A certification shall be in effect under this subsection for a period of 90 days beginning on the date on which the President submits the certification to the appropriate congressional committees.

(3) RENEWAL OR REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification under this subsection the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees either—

(A) a new certification under this subsection indicating that the conditions described in paragraph (1) are continuing to be met; or

(B) a report that—

(i) describes why the President is unable to make a new certification under this subsection; and

(ii) contains a certification that no funds will be obligated or expended to provide assistance described in subsection (a) in contravention of subsection (a).

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The limitation on assistance under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to—

(A) assistance for projects to be administered by local organizations that reflect the

aims, needs, and priorities of local communities in Syria;

(B) assistance for projects to meet basic human needs in Syria, including—

(i) drought relief;

(ii) assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims;

(iii) the distribution of food and medicine; and

(iv) the provision of health services; and

(C) assistance to carry out the activities described in subsection (b)(1)(G).

(2) REPORT AND DETERMINATION.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report and determination for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023 on each project with respect to which this subsection applies during the preceding fiscal year, including—

(A) a description of the project;

(B) a description of how United States funds with respect to the project were used;

(C) the geographic location or locations of the project; and

(D) a determination with respect to whether the project benefited an official of the Assad regime.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, the United States should not fund projects described in this subsection with respect to which the Government of Syria, any official of the Government of Syria, and any immediate family member of an official of the Government of Syria have a financial or material interest or are affiliated with the implementing partner of the project.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) ASSOCIATED FORCES.—The term “associated forces” includes forces of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iranian-backed proxy militias, and Hezbollah.

(3) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.—The term “directly or indirectly” includes assistance to multilateral institutions and international governmental organizations, such as the United Nations and related agencies, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON DELIVERY OF UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on delivery of United States humanitarian assistance to Syria.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the challenges of access to areas of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria or associated forces for purposes of providing United States humanitarian assistance, including assistance funded through multilateral institutions and international governmental organizations.

(2) A description of where such United States humanitarian assistance has been able to be delivered in such areas.

(3) A description of where such United States humanitarian assistance has been denied access in such areas.

(4) A description of how the United States Government is working to improve access to such areas.

(5) A description of the roles and responsibilities of United States allies and partners and other countries in the region in ensuring access to such areas.

(6) A description of how such United States humanitarian assistance and implementing partners of such assistance are monitored and evaluated.

(7) A description of the major challenges that the United States faces in monitoring such United States humanitarian assistance and how the United States is working to overcome such challenges.

(8) A description of the strategy of the United States to deliver humanitarian assistance to areas of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria or associated forces and in which the Government of Syria or associated forces is impeding access to such areas.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” and “associated forces” have the meanings given such terms in section 4(f).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill comes at a very critical time. After 7 years of devastating civil war, the destruction inflicted on the Syrian people by the Assad regime and its allies is catastrophic. By catastrophic, we mean a half million dead and we mean 14 million souls pushed out of their homes in that civil war.

Even now, Iranian-backed militias are engaged in sectarian cleansing. Ethnic cleansing was supposed to be something of the past. They are forcing people from their homes, and Russian warplanes continue to drop bombs on hospitals. Just 2 weeks ago, the regime again used chemical weapons outside of Damascus as part of an operation that has displaced 55,000 people in this latest operation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the ranking member of our committee, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, because during this period of time—and we have assisted in this effort—but during this period of time, he has tried to lead in getting a solution to the problem of that civil unrest in Syria, which began with people on the streets in Damascus marching, saying: “Peaceful, peaceful.” From day one, he has led an effort to try to focus us on trying to resolve this crisis.

Unfortunately, as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum noted in a recent re-

port, the situation on the ground is getting even worse in Syria, and the worst, they say, is probably yet to come.

At the same time as this carnage is going on, representatives of Syria, Iran, and Russia have spread out across the international community trying to gin up reconstruction money. They will not find it here.

It would be unconscionable for U.S. Government function to be used for stabilization or reconstruction in the areas under control of the illegitimate Assad regime and its proxies, and I will tell you why: because the people in those areas that they have taken over are being pushed out. And the militia that are being brought in are militia—whether it is Hezbollah or other militia—that are not indigenous to those communities. We are not going to support the building of infrastructure that is going to benefit Hezbollah, Iran’s revolutionary guards, or foreign militias recruited and paid for by the Iranian regime.

If or when the day comes that the Government of Syria is no longer led by Bashar al-Assad and his proxies, then the U.S. can once again look at the prospect for assistance, if the day comes when people are allowed to return to their homes. We do have an interest in seeing a stable and secure—and not hostile—Syria one day.

But until then, murder, industrial level torture, starvation, deliberate targeting of schools, hospitals, and markets, and the shameless use of chemical weapons cannot be in the remotest way possible supported by U.S. funding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members join with us to ensure no U.S. funding makes it into the hands of the Assad regime and his proxies.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2018.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4681, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding

with respect to H.R. 4681 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2018.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4681 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of the No Assistance for Assad Act.

This act, H.R. 4681, was written by me. I am proud to be the lead sponsor in this bill. And I am proud of the bipartisan support that we have gotten from Chairman ROYCE and others on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, every time we think that the crisis in Syria could not get any worse, the Assad regime manages to plunge the country into even deeper depths. Children living in besieged Madaya could not get food, so they resort to eating leaves. A 7-year-old and her mother tweeted good-bye messages from Aleppo under siege. What has happened recently in eastern Ghouta is just unfathomable.

The White Helmets—first responders—rushing to the scene of an aerial attack, have been targeted themselves once they arrived to render aid. And the regime has continued using chemical weapons, which the world swore we would never use again. But no matter how Assad’s victims have met their ends—from nerve gas or barrel bombs or at the hands of Assad’s Russian or Iranian patrons—the loss of innocent life is staggering.

My heart really bleeds for the people of Syria. What they have had to endure should not be endured by anyone. The United States needs to be vocal and we need to take action.

As we continue to find some way to end the bloodshed, we also need to start thinking about what will come down the road.

This bill says that American assistance for reconstruction in Syria should be available in areas controlled by Assad only if the regime stops indiscriminate use of weapons, ends attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, releases political prisoners, allows human rights organizations access to the prisons, and removes senior officials complicit in human rights abuses.

If Bashar al-Assad—the butcher of Syria—wants to destroy his own country and then expects the United States to pick up the pieces, he is sorely mistaken. That simply won't happen. He and Russia and Iran broke Syria, and now they have to buy it.

We were careful in crafting this legislation to ensure that these limitations won't affect locally administered projects. And the bill permits humanitarian assistance to all in need.

Recovery in Syria will be a slow and painful process. But we cannot allow those responsible for hundreds of thousands of murders to control American dollars meant to help the country rebuild.

Who in the Foreign Affairs Committee can forget those horrendous pictures taken of all these dead corpses lying one by one right next to each other? Who could ever forget those atrocities that are being put up with by the people of Syria each and every day?

I am grateful for the bipartisan support this bill has already received. I particularly want to thank Congressman KINZINGER, Congressman BOYLE, and Chairman ROYCE for their partnership in crafting this legislation.

This legislation sends a message—particularly after the Assad regime again used chemical weapons—that we are closely watching the developments in Syria and that the United States will not assist those who are party to such heinous war crimes.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), the primary Republican cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and the co-chair of the Friends of a Free, Stable, and Democratic Syria Caucus with me, Representative BOYLE, for their work on this bill.

In the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, we thought it was going to be peaceful. Since then, 500,000 Syrians are dead—50,000 of which are children—at the hands of the brutal Assad regime.

Assad, his regime, Russia, and Iran have committed genocide across Syria. They have targeted hospitals and schools, and they have destroyed critical infrastructure with indiscriminate barrel bombs and airstrikes. They reduced much of the country to rubble. As long as Assad is in power, they should be fully responsible for rebuilding.

The No Assistance for Assad Act would place conditions on American non-humanitarian assistance in Syrian territories controlled by the Assad regime or their allies.

By limiting our reconstruction assistance to Assad, we send a strong message that the American people will not support any efforts to legitimize or bolster the barbaric Assad regime—a regime that uses chemical weapons on its own innocent civilians, as we saw especially recently.

We have seen far too many horrifying images of the bloody and besieged children across Syria, suffering at the hands of an evil war criminal.

As of January 2018, the United States has provided more than \$7.7 billion in humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria. We will continue to support the innocent victims with emergency food, safe drinking water, shelter, and other vital resources that they desperately need.

Separately, this legislation places strict conditions on the non-humanitarian assistance for things like early recovery, stabilization, and reconstruction in the Assad-controlled Syrian territories.

The release of all political prisoners and providing full access to Syrian prisoners for human rights investigations and removing those human rights abusers from positions of authority are just two of the conditions included in this bill. The Syrian Government must also end all attacks against civilians and halt the development and deployment of ballistic and cruise missiles.

For our own national security and that of our allies, we must do all we can now to prevent the next generation of terrorists down the road.

□ 1700

Without hope and opportunity, the people of Syria and those across the Middle East will become prime recruits for groups like ISIS, Hezbollah, and others.

The United States of America must take a stand against the genocide in Syria, the inhumane war crimes against the innocent people of Syria, and the oppressive strongmen, those like Assad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also want to thank and express my support for Ranking Member ENGEL's bill, H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act. As he said, Assad is a butcher, a butcher of his own people.

Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad continues to murder the Syrians en masse

and destroy what was once a great ancient land. Because of the world's inaction, he is close to victory. He has proven that evil triumphs when good men and women do nothing.

Now Syria is in ruins and it must be rebuilt, but in the lands that Assad and his thugs control, we should play no part in helping his regime look like the saviors of the country. He and his Russian and Iranian backers must foot the bill for the destruction they brought upon Syria. Assad and his murderous supporters will try to use any reconstruction to cover up for their crimes.

That is why it is important we pass H.R. 4681, to restrict any U.S.-funded reconstruction assistance to areas the Syrian regime controls.

The American people are kind; they are generous and will always help those in need. We always have—history proves it—but we will not pay for a propaganda win for brutal dictators like Assad.

Let Assad and his buddies, the Iranians and the Russians, rebuild Assad's territory. His regime has weaponized humanitarian aid throughout the war, and we can only expect him to continue to do so as he tries to retake territory.

So, for now, let Assad rule over the ruins of the old Syria, the Syria he destroyed, and no U.S. money should ever go to Assad. One day, the Assads will be gone, but until then, we should not provide a dime of American money to strengthen his rule and grip over that land.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, reconstruction and stabilization of a post-ISIS Syria is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$300 billion.

And, by the way, I wish I could say a post-Assad Syria, because he is the one who really should go.

The Syrian regime has spent the last 6 years destroying civilian infrastructure and driving people from their homes. It is simply not the role of the United States to support reconstruction in Syria, especially if the Assad regime continues to suppress the Syrian people and there is no accountability for his war crimes.

For those who are considering investing in Syrian reconstruction in Assad-controlled territories, just know that Syria is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Therefore, it should be expected that reconstruction money would be syphoned off to those who have perpetrated war crimes and those who facilitate terrorism. We must prevent this.

Again, we must not forget the plight of the Syrian people. We must continue to stand with the Syrian people. We must demand that there is an end to all chemical weapons and all weapons killing civilians with barrel bombs, with people trying to get out of the way, little children dying with their mothers, in their mother's hands. This cannot continue.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to thank Ranking Member ENGEL and Representative KINZINGER for their exceptional work on this important bill. This bill will keep taxpayer dollars out of the hands of a murderous regime and its proxies.

Time and again, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL has been this body's conscience on the issue of Syria. We have acted many times, passing the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act twice; adopting H. Con. Res. 121, which expressed the sense of the Congress supporting the establishment of a tribunal in Syria to try Assad's war crimes, another measure we had passed.

While we have made important progress in the military campaign against ISIS, there is no end in sight to the misery inflicted on the people of Syria by Assad and his proxies. Now is not the time to turn away. As we engage, we cannot allow U.S. taxpayer money to reward war crimes.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act, introduced by my good friend Rep. ENGEL, the Ranking Member of our committee. I commend Rep. ENGEL and Rep. KINZINGER for advancing this important measure in a bipartisan manner to demonstrate the broad agreement in this House that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has no future as the legitimate leader of the Syrian people.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would effectively block most categories of U.S. assistance to areas of Syria controlled by the Assad regime unless it is delivered through trusted local partners or serves basic humanitarian needs. In creating strict conditions for the provisions of U.S. assistance to regime-controlled areas, this bill ensures that the United States will not help those responsible for destroying Syria to profit from rebuilding it.

Mr. Speaker, the Syrian regime, Russia, and Iran have played both arsonist and firefighter in Syria's devastating civil war—and now they want to play the role of predatory developer, sopping up reconstruction contracts to pad their pockets and further determine Syria's future in line with their narrow political agendas.

Mr. Speaker, Assad long ago surrendered his last shred of legitimacy as president of Syria. His regime's horrific chemical attack this month in Douma placed this fact once again in high relief. The Trump Administration was right to respond decisively to this barbaric attack with targeted strikes to punish and deter such atrocities perpetrated with chemical weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I have long advocated concrete steps that would ensure the Assad regime, jihadi groups, and others responsible for mass atrocities in Syria face justice for their crimes. This bill rightly insists on the removal of war criminals from the Syrian government as one condition among many for releasing U.S. aid to the regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this timely and important measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4681, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO BRING THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP COMPETITION TO CANADA, MEXICO, AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 111) recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 111

Whereas soccer is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in the world and the FIFA World Cup competition is the single most important event in that sport;

Whereas the United States successfully hosted in 9 cities throughout the Nation the 1994 FIFA World Cup competition, which was broadcast to billions of fans around the world and set an attendance record of nearly 3,600,000, which remains unbroken today;

Whereas the 1994 FIFA World Cup competition served as a catalyst for the increased popularity and development of the game throughout the United States, as well as the introduction of Major League Soccer, the United States national first division professional soccer league;

Whereas United States Soccer Federation and its counterparts in Canada and Mexico have established a United Bid Committee to prepare and submit an unprecedented joint bid to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition in North America;

Whereas Canada, the United States, and Mexico share core beliefs in justice, freedom, equality, and opportunity, and have a long history of partnership, innovation, and growth together on our shared continent;

Whereas for the first time in history the 2026 FIFA World Cup will include teams from 48 nations and presents an opportunity for Canada, Mexico, and the United States as host countries to demonstrate the highest achievable standards and serve as a benchmark for future organizers;

Whereas North America is home to one of the most competitive and advanced professional sports landscapes in the world that is continually updating to take advantage of the latest innovations and modernizations;

Whereas numerous American cities have been named by the United Bid Committee as candidates to serve as hosts to FIFA World Cup matches in 2026, with each of these cities embodying the diversity and enthusiasm shared by the entire Nation and guaranteeing each participating team and its followers a "home team" atmosphere;

Whereas the United States and its neighbors offer FIFA a valuable and receptive

market within which to further develop the sport of soccer, which in turn will have significant impact on and off the field in both the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas the United States possesses all necessary state-of-the-art infrastructure in its stadiums and potential host cities to ensure that the competition sets a new standard of quality, comfort, security, and safety for players, officials, spectators, media, and sponsors alike;

Whereas hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Canada, Mexico, and the United States promises record-setting attendance and financial performance, allowing revenues and tourism generated by the competition to be used for the further development of soccer, FIFA's objectives of positive social and environmental change, and further economic growth throughout our Nation;

Whereas hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition in Canada, Mexico, and the United States would serve as a tremendous impetus to national and international goodwill, as the competition would bring people from many nations, along with a diverse public, together under one banner of peace, friendship, and spirited and fair competition;

Whereas the historical tradition of inclusivity in the United States is shared by Canada and Mexico and the three countries are eager to welcome the players, spectators, and visitors who may travel to North America for the 2026 FIFA World Cup games; and

Whereas pursuant to FIFA bidding procedures, the President of the United States and certain Federal agencies have been asked to issue guarantees that upon authorization or appropriation, would establish the conditions required to help make the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition the most successful in history; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and supports the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States;

(2) encourages the President of the United States and appropriate Federal agencies to support the United Bid Committee in its efforts to meet all requirements for the United States to jointly host with Canada and Mexico the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition; and

(3) stands prepared to give full consideration to legislative proposals or other requests by the President to provide support related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition, if Canada, Mexico, and the United States are selected to host this event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

I thank him for introducing a resolution which expresses the broad bipartisan agreement that the United States supports the United Bid Committee's effort to jointly host the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition.

Soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world, and the World Cup is its most important competition. Hosting the tournament would be a win for the United States and for our neighbors in Canada and Mexico as well.

The United States has not hosted a FIFA World Cup since 1994, but 24 years later, we still hold the all-time attendance record. Over 3½ million people attended those matches. I remember. I was there in the stands for the games in L.A. The economic revenue generated by the 1994 tournament generated more than double what was expected.

The 2026 tournament is expected to break revenue and attendance records. FIFA has already announced that it will be the first time in tournament history that 48 teams, instead of 32, are going to compete in the World Cup. The addition of more teams will mean more economic opportunities for American cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco to host and entertain visitors from around the country and around the world.

The FIFA World Cup, much like the Olympics, has a long tradition of bringing countries together in a competitive but peaceful environment.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

First, let me thank Congressman LAHOOD for authoring this bipartisan resolution and Chairman ROYCE for bringing it to the floor.

With this resolution, we send a strong message of support for the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the FIFA World Cup competition to the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

We share critical relationships with our neighbors to the north and south, and it is important that we keep those good relationships. So I am pleased that Congress continues to push back on anything that would hurt the relationship.

Last year, the House passed my resolution with Congressman MCCAUL reaffirming the importance of the U.S.-Mexico partnership, as well as a resolution from Congressman JEFF DUNCAN on the U.S.-Canada alliance. The 2026 FIFA World Cup provides another key opportunity for us to reinforce our strong alliances with both Mexico and Canada.

The United States has hosted the World Cup three times: the men's tournament in 1994, and the women's World Cup in both 1999 and 2003. We have the infrastructure. We know how to prepare. We have 25 American cities eligi-

ble to host. Bringing the world's most popular tournament back to North America would generate increased tourist revenue for host sites as fans arrive from all over the world.

Congress should not only pass this resolution, but Congress should also continue to provide support for the United Bid Committee and its efforts in our own conversations with foreign leaders and other stakeholders.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the author of this resolution.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 111, recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer competition to the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

This bipartisan resolution, introduced by the co-chairs of the Congressional Soccer Caucus—myself, Congresswoman CASTOR, Congressman BACON, Congressman KIHUEN—conveys our strong support for this united North American bid to host the 2026 World Cup as well as voicing our overall support for soccer at the global level.

When the U.S. last hosted the 1994 FIFA World Cup competition, it served as a catalyst for the increased popularity and development of soccer across America and the introduction of Major League Soccer, which is thriving today.

Since the games in 1994, soccer has become one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, promoting a competitive and a healthy and active lifestyle, teamwork, and sportsmanship to over 24 million Americans of all ages in every State. This includes the 20 percent of American children under the age of 12 who currently play soccer.

As the father to three young soccer players and the Representative of a district which includes eight college soccer programs, I recognize the value that soccer has for families and communities. Additionally, in my home State of Illinois, we are proud to be the home of the U.S. Soccer Federation and the Chicago Fire, one of Major League Soccer's original soccer clubs.

By uniting players and fans from different nations under one banner of friendship and fair competition, it is our hope that hosting the 2026 competition would promote and further the positive impact of soccer here and abroad.

As the consideration of the 2026 location by FIFA continues, support from Congress will help demonstrate that our government is equally enthusiastic for North America's three largest nations to host one of the world's pre-eminent sporting events, which is soccer.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have supported this effort,

including Chairman ROYCE, who has been a strong advocate for this resolution, and also my colleagues on the U.S. Congressional Soccer Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H. Con. Res. 111.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), an original co-sponsor of this resolution, but even more importantly, co-chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America and our North American neighbors of Canada and Mexico have a wonderful opportunity to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. This is a combined North American bid.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative LAHOOD, and Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their support of this resolution, and I also commend my colleagues, Congressman BACON and Congressman KIHUEN, who also co-chair the Congressional Soccer Caucus.

The United States last hosted the World Cup in 1994. We had nine cities. The attendance was over 3½ million. We think now for 2026 it is going to be bigger and better than ever because we are going to combine efforts with our North American neighbors of Canada and Mexico, where they will also host many of the tournament matches.

□ 1715

Mr. Speaker, I noticed that Mr. WEBSTER was on the floor, along with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH, and they should be proud to know that Orlando and Miami, from our home State of Florida, will be participating, and we love soccer in the Sunshine State.

But I also offer my strong support for this resolution because of the inspiration that the World Cup soccer tournament provides to young people all across this country. It is like the Olympics. It encourages them to be healthy and well, to participate in team supports and athletics. It exposes and encourages children and young people to be good sports and understand what a world competition means in a friendly way.

Studies show that team sports lead to healthier lifestyles, increased knowledge about exercise and nutrition, positive gains in reading and math; and that is why the Congressional Soccer Caucus works with the U.S. Soccer Foundation because they really provide the national model for programs about "the beautiful game," and they make so many helpful investments in communities across the country to encourage kids to get out, be active, and learn about great sportsmanship.

So here is this resolution. We are coming together in a bipartisan way, to recognize the effort, to support it, to make sure that Americans everywhere know that we expect the men's team to live up to their expectations. The women's team, national team, of course,

has been champion after champion after champion. It is time, also, for the men's team and this generation to try to meet their goals.

We would like to encourage everyone to pay attention, support the effort.

Again, I thank my colleague, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL; and I urge the House to kick this resolution towards passage so that we can meet our goals.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

The ties between the United States, Mexico, and Canada are longstanding and deep; and I am pleased that the United States can continue to come together in partnership with our friends from both of those countries on the United Bid Committee to try to bring the 2026 World Cup to North America.

I stand ready to support the North American bid in any way that I can. It would really be terrific to get it, and I know we all feel the same way.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to, once again, thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), and I also thank the 40 cosponsors who have been pushing this important, bipartisan resolution. By passing this resolution, we show our support for the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the excitement of the World Cup tournament to the United States once again, for the first time since 1994.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 111, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMERICAN SPACE COMMERCE FREE ENTERPRISE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2809) to amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2809

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy; purposes.
- Sec. 3. Certification to operate space objects.
- Sec. 4. Permitting of space-based remote sensing systems.
- Sec. 5. Administrative provisions related to certification and permitting.
- Sec. 6. Technical and conforming amendments.
- Sec. 7. Office of Space Commerce.
- Sec. 8. Restriction on preventing launches and reentries of certified space objects.
- Sec. 9. Report on registration of space objects.
- Sec. 10. Comptroller General report.
- Sec. 11. Radiofrequency mapping report.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States, through existing authorization and supervision mechanisms, satisfies and is in conformity with its obligation under the Outer Space Treaty to authorize and supervise nongovernmental space activities to assure such activities are carried out in conformity with the international obligations of the United States under the Outer Space Treaty.

(2) The United States has a robust and innovative private sector that is investing in, developing, and placing into outer space, spacecraft and payloads.

(3) Authorization and supervision mechanisms as of the date of enactment of this Act could be improved to relieve administrative burdens on new and innovative nongovernmental space actors.

(4) It serves the national interest to address misperceptions of legal uncertainty through the establishment of a general authorization and supervision certification authority for nongovernmental outer space activities.

(5) The private exploration and use of outer space by nongovernmental entities will further the national security, foreign policy, and economic interests of the United States.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) United States citizens and entities are free to explore and use space, including the utilization of outer space and resources contained therein, without conditions or limitations;

(2) this freedom is only to be limited when necessary to assure United States national security interests are met and to authorize and supervise nongovernmental space activities to assure such activities are carried out in conformity with the international obligations of the United States under the Outer Space Treaty;

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Government shall interpret and fulfill its international obligations to minimize regulations and limitations on the freedom of United States nongovernmental entities to explore and use space;

(4) to the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Government shall take steps to protect the physical safety of space objects operated by the United States that do not involve limitations on the freedoms of non-

governmental entities of the United States; and

(5) nongovernmental activities in outer space shall only be authorized and supervised in a transparent, timely, and predictable manner, with minimal costs and burdens placed on the entities authorized and supervised.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act and the amendments made by this Act are—

(1) to enhance the existing outer space authorization and supervision framework to provide greater transparency, greater efficiency, and less administrative burden for nongovernmental entities of the United States seeking to conduct space activities; and

(2) to ensure that the United States remains the world leader in commercial space activities.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term “Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Return of Space Objects” means the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on April 22, 1968, ratified by the United States on December 3, 1968; 19 UST 7570);

(2) the term “Convention on Registration of Space Objects” means the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (signed at New York on January 14, 1975, ratified by the United States on September 15, 1976; 28 UST 695);

(3) the term “covered treaties on outer space” means—

(A) the Outer Space Treaty;

(B) the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Return of Space Objects;

(C) the Convention on Registration of Space Objects; and

(D) the Liability Convention;

(4) the term “Liability Convention” means the Convention on the International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on March 29, 1972, ratified by the United States on October 9, 1973; 24 UST 2389); and

(5) the term “Outer Space Treaty” means the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on January 27, 1967, ratified by the United States on October 10, 1967; 18 UST 2410).

SEC. 3. CERTIFICATION TO OPERATE SPACE OBJECTS.

Title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle VIII—Authorization and Supervision of Nongovernmental Space Activities “CHAPTER 801—CERTIFICATION TO OPERATE SPACE OBJECTS

“Sec.

“80101. Definitions.

“80102. Certification authority.

“80103. Certification application and requirements.

“80104. Mitigation of space debris.

“80105. Continuing certification requirements.

“80106. Certification transfer.

“80107. Certification expiration and termination.

“80108. Existing license or pending application for launch or reentry.

“80109. Private Space Activity Advisory Committee.

“80110. Exemptions.

“80111. Protecting the interests of United States entity space objects.

“§ 80101. Definitions

“In this subtitle:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term Executive agency in section 105 of title 5.

“(2) AGREEMENT ON THE RESCUE OF ASTRO-NAUTS AND THE RETURN OF SPACE OBJECTS.—The term ‘Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Return of Space Objects’ means the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on April 22, 1968, ratified by the United States on December 3, 1968; 19 UST 7570).

“(3) CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS.—The term ‘Convention on Registration of Space Objects’ means the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (signed at New York on January 14, 1975, ratified by the United States on September 15, 1976; 28 UST 695).

“(4) COVERED TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE.—The term ‘covered treaties on outer space’ means—

“(A) the Outer Space Treaty;

“(B) the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Return of Space Objects;

“(C) the Convention on Registration of Space Objects; and

“(D) the Liability Convention.

“(5) LIABILITY CONVENTION.—The term ‘Liability Convention’ means the Convention on the International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on March 29, 1972, ratified by the United States on October 9, 1973; 24 UST 2389).

“(6) NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘national of the United States’ has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

“(7) OUTER SPACE TREATY.—The term ‘Outer Space Treaty’ means the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (signed at Washington, Moscow, and London on January 27, 1967, ratified by the United States on October 10, 1967; 18 UST 2410).

“(8) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means, except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce.

“(9) SPACE-BASED REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM.—The term ‘space-based remote sensing system’ means a space object in Earth orbit that is—

“(A) designed to image the Earth; or

“(B) capable of imaging a space object in Earth orbit operated by the Federal Government.

“(10) SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION.—The term ‘space debris mitigation’ means efforts to—

“(A) prevent on-orbit break-ups;

“(B) remove spacecraft that have reached the end of their mission operation from useful densely populated orbit regions; and

“(C) limit the amount of debris released during normal operations of a space object.

“(11) SPACE OBJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘space object’ means—

“(i) a human-made object located in outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies, with or without human occupants, that was launched from Earth, such as a satellite or a spacecraft, including component parts of the object; and

“(ii) all items carried on such object that are intended for use in outer space outside of, and independent of, the operation of such object.

“(B) INCLUSION.—Such term includes any human-made object that is—

“(i) manufactured or assembled in outer space; and

“(ii) intended for operations in outer space outside of, and independent of, the operations of such object in which the manufacturing or assembly occurred.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

“(i) an article on board a space object that is only intended for use inside the space object;

“(ii) an article manufactured or processed in outer space that is a material; or

“(iii) an article intended for use outside of a space object as part of the certified operations of the space object.

“(12) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

“(13) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’ means the States, collectively.

“(14) UNITED STATES ENTITY.—The term ‘United States entity’ means—

“(A) an individual who is a national of the United States; or

“(B) a nongovernmental entity organized or existing under, and subject to, the laws of the United States or a State.

“§ 80102. Certification authority

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, the Secretary shall begin issuing certifications for the operation of a space object to any United States entity who submits an application for a certification in satisfaction of the requirements of this chapter.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, as the Secretary considers necessary, consult with the heads of other relevant agencies in carrying out the requirements of this chapter, pursuant to section 80310.

“(2) EXPLOITATION AND INTEGRATION OF WAVEFORMS.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Defense before issuing a certification or approving a change to an existing certification if the operations of the space object involve exploitation and integration of waveforms other than publicly available or standard public waveforms. The previous sentence shall not grant authority to the Secretary to regulate such operations.

“(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR OPERATION.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, a United States entity may not operate a space object unless the entity holds a certification issued under this chapter for the operation of such object or the entity holds a valid payload approval for launch or reentry under section 50904 as part of a license issued under chapter 509, and that satisfies the requirements of section 80108(a).

“(d) FOREIGN ENTITIES PROHIBITED.—The Secretary may not issue a certification under this chapter to any person who is not a United States entity.

“(e) COVERAGE OF CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, require only 1 certification under this chapter for a United States entity to—

“(1) conduct multiple operations carried out using a single space object;

“(2) operate multiple space objects that carry out substantially similar operations; or

“(3) use multiple space objects to carry out a single space operation.

“§ 80103. Certification application and requirements

“(a) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a certification or transfer of a certification to op-

erate a space object under this chapter, a United States entity shall submit an application to the Secretary as provided in paragraph (2). Such application shall include, for each required item or attestation, sufficient evidence to demonstrate each fact or assertion.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application described in paragraph (1) shall include only the following information, with respect to each space object and the operations proposed to be certified:

“(A) The name, address, and contact information of one or more nationals of the United States designated by the applicant as responsible for the operation of the space object.

“(B) An affirmation, and a document of proof, that the applicant is a United States entity.

“(C) If available at the time of submission of the application, the planned date and location of the launch of the space object, including the identity of the launch provider.

“(D) The general physical form and composition of the space object.

“(E) A description of the proposed operations of the space object that includes—

“(i) when and where the space object will operate; and

“(ii) when and where the operation of the space object will terminate.

“(F) A description of how the space object will be operated and disposed of in a manner to mitigate the generation of space debris.

“(G) Information about third-party liability insurance obtained, if any, by the applicant for operations of the space object, including the amount and coverage of such liability insurance.

“(H) Whether the space object will include a space-based remote sensing system.

“(I) Whether the operations will involve exploitation and integration of waveforms other than publicly available or standard public waveforms and, if so, information about such operations as proscribed in advance by regulation by the Secretary.

“(3) ATTESTATIONS.—An application described in paragraph (1) shall contain an attestation by the applicant of each the following:

“(A) The space object is not a nuclear weapon or a weapon of mass destruction.

“(B) The space object will not carry a nuclear weapon or weapon of mass destruction.

“(C) The space object will not be operated or used for testing of any weapon on a celestial body.

“(D) All information in the application and supporting documents is true, complete, and accurate.

“(b) REVIEW OF APPLICATION.—

“(1) VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION AND ATTESTATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of an application under this section, the Secretary shall verify that—

“(A) the application is complete, including any required supporting documents;

“(B) the application does not contain any clear indication of fraud or falsification; and

“(C) the application contains each attestation required under subsection (a)(3).

“(2) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of an application under this section—

“(A) if the Secretary verifies that the applicant has met the application requirements described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve the application and issue a certification to the applicant with or without conditions on the proposed operation of the space object pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A); or

“(B) if the Secretary cannot verify that the applicant has met the application requirements described in paragraph (1) or if the Secretary determines it is necessary to

deny the application pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(B), the Secretary—

“(i) shall issue a denial of the application signed by the Secretary (a duty that may not be delegated, including to the Office of Space Commerce); and

“(ii) shall, not later than 10 days after the decision to deny the certification—

“(I) provide the applicant with a written notification containing a clearly articulated rationale for the denial that provides, to the maximum extent practicable, guidance to the applicant as to how such rationale for denial could be addressed in a subsequent application; and

“(II) notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives of such rationale.

“(3) AUTOMATIC APPROVAL.—If the Secretary has not approved or denied the application before the deadline under paragraph (2), the certification shall be approved without condition. The Secretary may not allow tolling of the 90-day period under such paragraph.

“(4) IMPROPER BASIS FOR DENIAL.—The Secretary may not deny an application for a certification under this section in order to protect an existing certification holder from competition.

“(5) SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.—The Secretary may not prejudice a new application for the proposed operations denied pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) if such new application contains remedies addressing the rationale for such denial.

“(C) COMPLIANCE WITH THE OUTER SPACE TREATY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines, with clear and convincing evidence, that the proposed operation of a space object under an application for a certification under this chapter is a violation of an international obligation of the United States pertaining to a nongovernmental entity of the United States under the Outer Space Treaty—

“(A) the Secretary may condition the proposed operation covered by the certification only to the extent necessary to prevent a violation of such international obligation; or

“(B) if the Secretary determines that there is no practicable way to condition such certification to prevent such a violation, the Secretary may deny the application.

“(2) LIMITATION FOR DETERMINATIONS.—A determination under paragraph (1) shall be limited as follows:

“(A) The Federal Government shall interpret and fulfill its international obligations under the Outer Space Treaty in a manner that minimizes regulations and limitations on the freedom of United States nongovernmental entities to explore and use space.

“(B) The Federal Government shall interpret and fulfill its international obligations under the Outer Space Treaty in a manner that promotes free enterprise in outer space.

“(C) The Federal Government shall not presume all obligations of the United States under the Outer Space Treaty are obligations to be imputed upon United States nongovernmental entities.

“(D) Guidelines promulgated by the Committee on Space Research may not be considered international obligations of the United States.

“(3) PRESUMPTIONS.—In making a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall presume, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, that—

“(A) any attestation made by an applicant pursuant to subsection (a)(3) is sufficient to meet the international obligations of the United States pertaining to nongovernmental entities of the United States under

the Outer Space Treaty addressed by such attestation; and

“(B) reasonably commercially available efforts are sufficient to be in conformity with the international obligations of the United States pertaining to nongovernmental entities of the United States under the Outer Space Treaty.

“(4) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE CONDITIONS.—No other modifications may be made, or additional conditions placed, on a certification after the date on which the certification is issued (except to account for a material change as provided in section 80105(c) or the removal of a condition pursuant to subsection (d)).

“(5) NONDELEGABLE.—The responsibilities of the Secretary under this subsection may not be delegated, including to the Office of Space Commerce.

“(d) AUTHORITY TO REMOVE CONDITIONS.—The Secretary, as determined appropriate, may remove a condition placed on a certification pursuant to subsection (c).

“§ 80104. Mitigation of space debris

“(a) PLAN SUBMISSION.—To be eligible for a certification under this chapter, each application shall include a space debris mitigation plan for the space object. Such plan—

“(1) shall take into account best practice guidelines promulgated by the United States and the Interagency Debris Coordinating Committee; and

“(2) may take into account that a space object may end certified operations and be stored in a safe manner until such time as the space object is permanently disposed of or certified for further operations.

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, a holder of a certification under this chapter shall notify the Secretary not later than 30 days before beginning to implement the disposal phase of a space debris mitigation plan described in subsection (a). Such certification holder shall, not later than 30 days after completing implementation of such phase, update the Secretary of the results of any space debris mitigation efforts.

“§ 80105. Continuing certification requirements

“(a) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—A certification holder shall, in a timely manner, notify the Secretary if—

“(1) a certified space object has terminated operations; or

“(2) a catastrophic event has occurred to a certified space object, such as the unplanned destruction of a space object.

“(b) MATERIAL CHANGE.—The Secretary shall require certification holders to inform the Secretary of—

“(1) any material changes to the space object or the planned operations of the space object prior to launch; and

“(2) any material anomalies or departures from the planned operations during the course of operations.

“(c) UPDATE TO CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 14 days after the date of receipt of information regarding a material change pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall make a determination of whether such material change is substantial enough to warrant additional review under section 80103(b). Not later than 90 days after a determination that such review is warranted, the Secretary shall complete a similar such review process for such material change as is required for a certification applicant under such section.

“§ 80106. Certification transfer

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall provide for the transfer of a certification under this chapter from the certification holder to another United States entity to continue the operations allowed under such certification.

“(b) TRANSFER REQUEST REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for a transfer under subsection (a), the certification holder shall submit to the Secretary a request that includes—

“(1) any identifying information regarding the proposed transferee, including accompanying supporting documents, that would be required under an initial application under section 80103; and

“(2) each attestation required under section 80103(a)(3), including accompanying supporting documents, completed by the proposed transferee.

“(c) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after a certification holder submits a request under subsection (b), the Secretary shall complete a similar review process for the request for transfer as required for a certification applicant under section 80103(b).

“§ 80107. Certification expiration and termination

“(a) CERTIFICATION EXPIRATION.—A certification issued under this chapter shall expire on the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which all operations approved under such certification cease, including carrying out a space debris mitigation plan of any space object approved under such certification;

“(2) the date on which all space objects approved under the certification no longer exist; or

“(3) the date that is 5 years after the date on which the certification was approved, if no operations approved under the certification have commenced by such date.

“(b) CERTIFICATION TERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall terminate a certification under this chapter if an applicant or certification holder is convicted of a violation of section 1001 of title 18 related to the certification process under this chapter.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—A certification holder whose certification is terminated under this subsection shall be ineligible to apply for or receive a certification under this chapter.

“(3) SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION PLAN.—Upon termination of a certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary may require the certification holder to carry out the space debris mitigation plan submitted by the certification holder under section 80104.

“§ 80108. Existing license or pending application for launch or reentry

“(a) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING LICENSE.—Any United States entity for whom a payload has been approved (and not subject to an exemption under section 80110) on or before the effective date of this section for launch or reentry under section 50904 as part of a license issued under chapter 509 may—

“(1) elect to be immediately considered certified for operation under this chapter on such effective date, in which case all terms and conditions applicable to the payload as approved for launch or reentry as part of a license issued under chapter 509 shall apply for the duration of the operation of the payload; or

“(2) apply for a certification under this chapter for the operation of the licensed activities and may continue to operate pursuant to such license until such time as such certification is issued.

“(b) RESCINDING OR TRANSFER OF PENDING LICENSE.—A payload of a United States entity that, on the effective date of this section, is pending approval under section 50904 as part of a launch or reentry license issued under chapter 509 may be, at the election of the applicant for payload approval—

“(1) rescinded without prejudice; or

“(2) transferred to the Office of Space Commerce and deemed to be a pending application for certification under this chapter.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after

the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

“§ 80109. Private Space Activity Advisory Committee

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Private Space Activity Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’) consisting of 15 members who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(b) CHAIR.—The Committee shall designate one member as the chair of the Committee.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) LIMITATION.—Members of the Committee may not be Federal Government employees or officials.

“(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Committee shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5.

“(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Committee shall include a variety of space policy, engineering, technical, science, legal, and finance professionals. Not less than 3 members shall have significant experience working in the commercial space industry.

“(d) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 4 years and may not serve as a member for the 2-year period following the date of completion of each such term.

“(e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be to—

“(1) analyze the status and recent developments of nongovernmental space activities;

“(2) analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the certification process under this chapter;

“(3) provide recommendations to the Secretary and Congress on how the United States can facilitate and promote a robust and innovative private sector that is investing in, developing, and operating space objects;

“(4) identify any challenges the United States private sector is experiencing—

“(A) with the authorization and supervision of the operation of space objects under this chapter;

“(B) more generally, with international obligations of the United States relevant to private sector activities in outer space;

“(C) with harmful interference to private sector activities in outer space; and

“(D) with access to adequate, predictable, and reliable radio frequency spectrum;

“(5) review existing best practices for United States entities to avoid the harmful contamination of the Moon and other celestial bodies;

“(6) review existing best practices for United States entities to avoid adverse changes in the environment of the Earth resulting from the introduction of extraterrestrial matter;

“(7) provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters relating to United States private sector activities in outer space; and

“(8) provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters related to the authority of the Secretary under this chapter or to private sector space activities authorized pursuant to this chapter that the Committee determines necessary.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Committee shall submit to Congress, the President, and the Secretary an annual report that includes the information, analysis, findings, and recommendations described in subsection (e).

“(g) SUNSET.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Committee is established.

“§ 80110. Exemptions

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A certification is not required under this chapter for any of the following operations:

“(1) Space object activities authorized by another country that is a party to the Outer Space Treaty.

“(2) Launch or reentry vehicle operations licensed by the Department of Transportation under chapter 509.

“(3) Space stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any entity from the requirement to obtain a permit to operate a space-based remote sensing system under chapter 802.

“§ 80111. Protecting the interests of United States entity space objects

“The President shall—

“(1) protect the interests of United States entity exploration and use of outer space, including commercial activity and the exploitation of space resources, from acts of foreign aggression and foreign harmful interference;

“(2) protect ownership rights of United States entity space objects and obtained space resources; and

“(3) ensure that United States entities operating in outer space are given due regard.”

SEC. 4. PERMITTING OF SPACE-BASED REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The commercial market for space-based remote sensing technologies and information has experienced significant growth since the passage of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992.

(2) It is in the interest of the United States to foster new and novel space-based remote sensing applications and services and to help facilitate their continued domestic growth.

(3) Since the passage of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Commercial Remote Sensing has experienced a significant increase in applications for private remote sensing space system licenses as authorized under section 60121 of title 51, United States Code.

(4) Many of the applicants for commercial space-based remote sensing licenses have encountered significant delays and unnecessary obstacles in the application process.

(5) The current licensing paradigm must be updated as to not discourage the continued growth of the United States space-based remote sensing industry. It must be updated in a way that satisfies the needs of commercial remote sensing market as well as the national security of the United States.

(6) In order to protect United States leadership and commercial viability in remote sensing technologies, the Federal Government should not limit commercial entities from providing remote sensing capabilities or data products that are available or reasonably expected to be made available in the next 3 years in the international or domestic marketplace.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Government shall take steps to protect the national security interests of the United States that do not involve regulating or limiting the freedoms of United States nongovernmental entities to explore and use space. Federal Government agencies shall mitigate any threat to national security posed by the exploration and use of outer space by United States citizens and entities, to the maximum extent practicable, changing Federal Government activities and operations.

(c) AMENDMENT.—Title 51, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 802—PERMITTING OF SPACE-BASED REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS

“Sec.

“80201. Permitting authority.

“80202. Application for permit.

“80203. Continuing permitting requirements.

“80204. Permit transfer.

“80205. Agency activities.

“80206. Annual reports.

“80207. Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing.

“80208. Continuation of existing license or pending application.

“80209. Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office.

“§ 80201. Permitting authority

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, the Secretary is authorized to permit persons to operate space-based remote sensing systems.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, as the Secretary considers necessary, consult with the heads of other relevant agencies in carrying out the requirements of this chapter, pursuant to section 80310.

“(c) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO SYSTEM USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.—In the case of a space object that is used for remote sensing and other purposes, the authority of the Secretary under this chapter shall be limited to the remote sensing operations of such space object.

“(d) DE MINIMIS EXCEPTION.—

“(1) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement for a permit for a space-based remote sensing system that the Secretary determines is—

“(A) ancillary to the primary design purpose of the space object; or

“(B) too trivial to require a determination under section 80202(c) relating to national security.

“(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue guidance providing a clear explanation of the criteria used by the Secretary to grant a de minimis waiver under paragraph (1)(B) for a space-based remote sensing system that is too trivial to require a determination under section 80202(c).

“(e) COVERAGE OF PERMIT.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that only one permit is required under this chapter to—

“(1) conduct multiple operations carried out using a space-based remote sensing system;

“(2) operate multiple space-based remote sensing systems that carry out substantially similar operations; or

“(3) use multiple space-based remote sensing systems to carry out a single remote sensing operation.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, no person may, directly or through any subsidiary or affiliate, operate any space-based remote sensing system without a permit issued under this chapter.

“(g) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—In any case in which the applicant for a permit under this chapter is not a United States entity, the applicant shall identify a United States entity that consents to be responsible for the permitted operation of the space-based remote sensing system.

“(h) OPERATION OF SPACE-BASED REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM.—For purposes of this chapter, the operation of a space-based remote sensing system—

“(1) begins when the system—

“(A) is located in outer space; and

“(B) can meet the minimum threshold and objective capabilities for the system’s stated need; and

“(2) shall not cover the acts of distribution, sale, or transfer of data, information, or services to persons, foreign or domestic, including any such acts taken pursuant to an agreement with such persons.

“§ 80202. Application for permit

“(a) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a permit to operate a space-based remote sensing system under this chapter, a person shall submit an application to the Secretary as provided in paragraph (2). Such application shall include, for each required item, sufficient evidence to demonstrate each fact or assertion.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application described in paragraph (1) shall include only the following information, with respect to each space-based remote sensing system and the operations proposed to be permitted:

“(A) The name, address, and contact information of one or more United States entity identified by the applicant, pursuant to section 80201(g), as responsible for the operation of the space-based remote sensing system.

“(B) If available at the time of submission of the application, the planned date and location of the launch of the applicable space object, including the identity of the launch provider.

“(C) The general physical form and composition of the space-based remote sensing system.

“(D) A description of the proposed operations of the space-based remote sensing system that includes—

“(i) when and where the space-based remote sensing system will operate;

“(ii) when and where the operation of the space-based remote sensing system will terminate; and

“(iii) any additional information necessary to make a determination under subsection (c) regarding a significant threat to national security, as prescribed in advance in regulation by the Secretary.

“(E) A description of how the space-based remote sensing system will be operated and disposed of in a manner to mitigate the generation of space debris.

“(F) Information about third-party liability insurance obtained, if any, by the applicant for operations of the space-based remote sensing system, including the amount and coverage of such liability insurance.

“(b) REVIEW OF APPLICATION.—

“(1) VERIFICATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of an application under this section, the Secretary shall verify that—

“(A) the application is complete pursuant to subsection (a); and

“(B) the application does not contain any clear indication of fraud or falsification.

“(2) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of an application under this section—

“(A) if the Secretary verifies that the applicant has met the application requirements described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve the application and issue a permit to the applicant with or without conditions on the proposed operation of the space-based remote sensing system pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A); or

“(B) if the Secretary cannot verify that the applicant has met the application requirements described in paragraph (1) or if the Secretary makes a determination to deny the application under subsection (c)(1)(B), the Secretary—

“(i) shall issue a denial of the application signed by the Secretary (a duty that may not be delegated, including to the Office of Space Commerce); and

“(ii) shall, not later than 10 days after the decision to deny the application—

“(I) provide the applicant with a written notification containing a clearly articulated

rationale for the denial that, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(aa) provides guidance to the applicant as to how the articulated rationale for denial could be addressed in a subsequent application; and

“(bb) includes all classified information included in such rationale for which the applicant has the required security clearance; and

“(II) submit a notification of the denial to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

“(aa) contains the clearly articulated rationale for the denial; and

“(bb) in the case of a denial pursuant to a national security determination under subsection (c)—

“(AA) includes an explanation of how, and clear and convincing evidence that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Government took steps to mitigate a significant threat to the national security of the United States posed by the operation of the applicant's space-based remote sensing system by changing Federal Government activities and operations; and

“(BB) may contain classified information.

“(3) AUTOMATIC APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not approved or denied the application before the deadline under paragraph (2), the application shall be approved without condition. The Secretary may not allow tolling of the 90-day period under such paragraph.

“(4) DELAY OF AUTOMATIC APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President is permitted to extend the 90-day period under paragraph (2) once for each application for an additional 60 days to further evaluate the national security implications of the application only if the President notifies the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the need, with clear and convincing evidence, to extend the review period. Such notification shall include—

“(i) details on the efforts taken to review the application during the 90-day period, including staff time, studies produced, and interim conclusions; and

“(ii) a plan for assuring a final decision within the additional 60 days.

“(B) NONDELEGABLE.—The responsibilities of the President under this paragraph may not be delegated

“(5) IMPROPER BASIS FOR DENIAL.—The Secretary may not deny an application for a permit under this section in order to protect an existing permit holder from competition.

“(6) SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.—The Secretary may not prejudice a new application for the proposed operations denied pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) if such new application contains remedies addressing the rationale for such denial.

“(c) ADDRESSING NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and with clear and convincing evidence, that the proposed operation of a space-based remote sensing system under an application for a permit under this chapter poses a significant threat to the national security of the United States as provided in paragraph (2)—

“(A) the Secretary may condition the proposed operation covered by the permit only to the extent necessary to address such threat; or

“(B) if the Secretary determines that there is no practicable way to condition such permit to address such threat, the Secretary may deny the application.

“(2) SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—For purposes of a determination under paragraph (1), a significant threat to the national security of the United States is a threat—

“(A) that is imminent; and

“(B) that cannot practicably be mitigated through changes to Federal Government activities or operations.

“(3) REASONABLY COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE EFFORTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall only place a condition on a permit that is achievable using reasonably commercially available efforts.

“(4) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days after the decision to condition the proposed operation covered by a permit pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) provide the applicant with a written notification containing a clearly articulated rationale for the condition that, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) provides guidance to the applicant as to how the articulated rationale for condition could be addressed in a subsequent application; and

“(ii) includes all necessary classified information included in such rationale for which the applicant has the required security clearance; and

“(B) submit a notification of the condition to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives that—

“(i) contains the clearly articulated rationale for the condition;

“(ii) includes an explanation of how, and clear and convincing evidence that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Government took steps to mitigate a significant threat to the national security of the United States posed by the operation of the applicant's space-based remote sensing system by changing Federal Government activities and operations; and

“(iii) may contain classified information.

“(5) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE CONDITIONS.—No other modifications may be made, or additional conditions placed, on a permit after the date on which the permit is issued except to account for a material change as provided in section 80203(c).

“(6) NONDELEGABLE.—The responsibilities of the Secretary under this subsection may not be delegated, including to the Office of Space Commerce.

“(d) LIMITATIONS ON CONDITIONS.—

“(1) SAME OR SIMILAR CAPABILITY.—No operational condition under subsection (c) may be placed on a space-based remote sensing system that has the same or substantially similar space-based remote sensing capabilities as another system permitted under this chapter with no such condition.

“(2) CONDITIONS THAT EXCEED PERMITTED CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may not place a condition on a permit for a space-based remote sensing system that exceeds a condition placed on an existing permitted system that has the same or substantially similar capabilities.

“(3) SCOPE.—With respect to a condition placed on a permit for a space-based remote sensing system because of a national security concern, the Secretary may only place such a condition for the smallest area and for the shortest period necessary to protect the national security concern at issue.

“(e) COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE CAPABILITY.—

“(1) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not deny an application for, or place a condition on, a permit for the operation of a space-based remote sensing system for which the same or substantially similar capabilities,

derived data, products, or services are already commercially available or reasonably expected to be made available in the next 3 years in the international or domestic marketplace. The exception in the previous sentence applies regardless of whether the marketplace products and services originate from the operation of aircraft, unmanned aircraft, or other platforms or technical means or are assimilated from a variety of data sources.

“(2) CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE.—Each denial of an application for, and each condition placed on, a permit for the operation of a space-based remote sensing system, shall include an explanation of, and clear and convincing evidence that, the exception under paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to the proposed permitted operations of such system.

“(3) DATABASE.—The President shall—

“(A) maintain a database of commercially available capabilities described in paragraph (1);

“(B) update such database not less than once every 3 months; and

“(C) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report containing the contents of the database upon each update required under subparagraph (B).

“(4) APPLICANT SUBMISSIONS.—An applicant for, or holder of, a permit for the operation of a space-based remote sensing system may submit to the Secretary evidence of, or information regarding, a commercially available capability described in paragraph (1) for consideration for inclusion in the database.

“(5) NONAPPLICATION OF CONDITION.—In any case in which the Secretary determines that the exception under paragraph (1) applies with respect to a permit for the operation of a space-based remote sensing system for which the Secretary has placed a condition under subsection (c), such condition shall no longer apply with respect to such permitted operations.

“(f) AUTHORITY TO REMOVE CONDITIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary from removing a condition placed on a permit pursuant to subsection (c).

“§ 80203. Continuing permitting requirements

“(a) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—A permit holder shall, in a timely manner, notify the Secretary if—

“(1) a permitted space-based remote sensing system has terminated operations; or

“(2) a catastrophic event has occurred to a space-based remote sensing system, such as the unplanned destruction of such system.

“(b) MATERIAL CHANGE.—The Secretary shall require permit holders to inform the Secretary of—

“(1) any material changes to the space-based remote sensing system or the planned operations of such system prior to launch; and

“(2) any material anomalies or departures from the planned operations during the course of operations.

“(c) UPDATE TO PERMIT.—Not later than 14 days after the date of receipt of information regarding a material change pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall make a determination of whether such material change is substantial enough to warrant additional review under section 80202(b). Not later than 90 days after a determination that such review is warranted, the Secretary shall complete a similar such review process for such material change as is required for a permit applicant under such section.

“§ 80204. Permit transfer

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall provide for

the transfer of a permit under this chapter from the permit holder to another person to continue the operations allowed under such permit.

“(b) TRANSFER REQUEST REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for a transfer under subsection (a), the permit holder shall submit to the Secretary a request that includes any identifying information regarding the transferee that would be required under an initial application under section 80202.

“(c) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a transfer request pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall make a determination of whether such material change is substantial enough to warrant additional review under section 80202(b). Not later than 90 days after a determination that such review is warranted, the Secretary shall complete a similar such review process for such transferee as is required for a permit applicant under such section.

“(d) MATERIAL CHANGE.—Any transfer of a permit under this chapter constitutes a material change under section 80203(b).

“§ 80205. Agency activities

“(a) UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLE.—A person may apply for a permit to operate a space-based remote sensing system that utilizes, on a space-available basis, a civilian Federal Government satellite or vehicle as a platform for such system. The Secretary, pursuant to this chapter, may permit such system if it meets all conditions of this chapter.

“(b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may offer assistance to persons in finding appropriate opportunities for the utilization described in subsection (a).

“(c) AGREEMENTS.—To the extent provided in advance by appropriation Acts, an agency may enter into an agreement for the utilization described in subsection (a) if such agreement is consistent with the agency’s mission and statutory authority, and if the space-based remote sensing system is issued a permit by the Secretary under this chapter before commencing operation.

“§ 80206. Annual reports

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, and annually thereafter, on—

“(1) the Secretary’s implementation of this chapter, including—

“(A) a list of all applications received in the previous calendar year;

“(B) a list of all applications that resulted in a permit;

“(C) a list of all applications denied and an explanation of why each application was denied, including any information relevant to the adjudication process of a request for a permit;

“(D) a list of all applications that required additional information; and

“(E) a list of all applications whose disposition exceeded the 90-day deadline, the total days overdue for each application that exceeded such deadline, and an explanation for the delay; and

“(2) a description of all actions taken by the Secretary under the administrative authority granted by section 80301.

“(b) CLASSIFIED ANNEXES.—Each report under subsection (a) may include classified annexes as necessary to protect the disclosure of sensitive or classified information.

“§ 80207. Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Advisory Committee on Com-

mmercial Remote Sensing (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’) consisting of 15 members who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(b) CHAIR.—The Committee shall designate one member as the chair of the Committee.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) LIMITATION.—Members of the Committee may not be Federal Government employees or officials.

“(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Committee shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5.

“(d) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 4 years and may not serve as a member for the 2-year period following the date of completion of each such term.

“(e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be to—

“(1) provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters relating to the United States commercial space-based remote sensing industry;

“(2) analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the space-based remote sensing system permitting process under this chapter;

“(3) provide recommendations to the Secretary and Congress on how the United States can facilitate and promote a robust and innovate private sector that is investing in, developing, and operating space-based remote sensing systems;

“(4) identify any challenges the United States private sector is experiencing with the authorization and supervision of the operation of space-based remote sensing systems under this chapter; and

“(5) provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters related to the authority of the Secretary under this chapter or to private sector space activities authorized pursuant to this chapter that the Committee determines necessary.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Committee shall submit to Congress, the President, the Secretary, and the Director of the Office of Space Commerce, an annual report that includes the information, analysis, findings, and recommendations described in subsection (e).

“(g) SUNSET.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Committee is established.

“§ 80208. Continuation of existing license or pending application

“(a) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING LICENSE.—Any United States entity for whom a license for the operation of a space-based remote sensing system issued under subchapter III of chapter 601 that is valid on the effective date of this section may—

“(1) elect to be immediately considered permitted for operation under this chapter, in which case all terms and conditions of a license issued under such subchapter with respect to the operation of such system shall apply for the duration of the license; or

“(2) apply for a permit for operation under this chapter and may continue to operate pursuant to such license until such time as such permit is issued.

“(b) RESCIND OR TRANSFER OF PENDING LICENSE.—An applicant with an application for a remote sensing license under subchapter III of chapter 601 that is pending on the effective date of this section may be, at the election of the applicant—

“(1) rescinded without prejudice; or

“(2) transferred to the Office of Space Commerce and deemed to be a pending application for a permit under this chapter.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after

the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

“§ 80209. Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office

“On the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is abolished.”

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS RELATED TO CERTIFICATION AND PERMITTING.

Title 51, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 803—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS RELATED TO CERTIFICATION AND PERMITTING

“Sec.

“80301. Administrative authority.

“80302. Consultation.

“80303. Appeal of denial or condition of certification or permit.

“80304. Limitation on certain agency supervision.

“80305. Commercial exploration and use of outer space.

“80306. Rule of construction on concurrent application submission.

“80307. Federal jurisdiction.

“80308. Global commons.

“80309. Regulatory authority.

“80310. Consultation with relevant agencies.

“80311. Authorization of appropriations.

“§ 80301. Administrative authority

“(a) FUNCTIONS.—In order to carry out the responsibilities specified in this subtitle, the Secretary may—

“(1) seek an order of injunction or similar judicial determination from a district court of the United States with personal jurisdiction over the certification or permit holder to terminate certifications or permits under this subtitle and to terminate certified or permitted operations on an immediate basis, if the Secretary determines that the certification or permit holder has substantially failed to comply with any provisions of this subtitle, or with any terms of a certification or permit;

“(2) provide for civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000 (each day of operation constituting a separate violation) and not to exceed \$500,000 in total, for—

“(A) noncompliance with the certification or permitting requirements or regulations issued under this subtitle; or

“(B) the operation of a space object or space-based remote sensing system without the applicable certification or permit issued under this subtitle;

“(3) compromise, modify, or remit any such civil penalty;

“(4) seize any object, record, or report, or copies of materials, documents, or records, pursuant to a warrant from a magistrate based on a showing of probable cause to believe that such object, record, or report was used, is being used, or is likely to be used in violation of this subtitle or the requirements of a certification or permit or regulation issued thereunder; and

“(5) make investigations and inquiries concerning any matter relating to the enforcement of this subtitle.

“(b) REVIEW OF AGENCY ACTION.—Any holder of, or applicant for, a certification or a permit who makes a timely request for review of an adverse action pursuant to paragraph (2) or (4) of subsection (a) shall be entitled to adjudication by the Secretary on the record after an opportunity for any agency hearing with respect to such adverse action. Any final action by the Secretary under this subsection shall be subject to judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, as provided in section 80303 of this chapter.

“(c) NO COST FOR CERTIFICATION OR PERMIT.—The Secretary may not impose a fee or other cost on a holder of, or applicant for—

“(1) a certification under chapter 801; or

“(2) a permit under chapter 802.

“(d) NO AUTHORITY TO SET CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may not impose a substantive condition on, or any other requirement for, the issuance of a certification or permit except as specifically provided in this subtitle.

“(e) FOIA EXEMPTION.—Paragraph (3) of section 552(b) of title 5 shall apply with respect to any filing relating to a certification or a permit under this subtitle.

“(f) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.—The exceptions under section 553(a)(1), section 553(b)(B), or section 554(a)(4) of title 5 shall not apply with respect to a certification or permit under this subtitle.

“§ 80302. Consultation

“(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

“(1) the United States Government has assets in Earth orbit critical to national security, scientific research, economic growth, and exploration;

“(2) such assets represent a considerable investment of United States taxpayers; and

“(3) it is in the national interest of the United States to facilitate opportunities to provide for the protection of such assets.

“(b) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary issues a certification under chapter 801, the Secretary shall review the operations of any space objects covered by the certification to determine whether the interaction between such operations and the operations of a Federal Government space object present a substantial risk to the physical safety of a space object operated by either party.

“(c) REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATION.—If the Secretary makes a determination that a substantial risk identified under subsection (b) exists, the Secretary may require that the certification holder participate in a consultation under this section.

“(d) PARTIES TO A CONSULTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A consultation under this section may be held, with respect to a substantial safety risk identified under subsection (b), between—

“(A) a certification holder responsible for the certified space object operations; and

“(B) any entity of the Federal Government operating a potentially affected space object.

“(2) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may not impose any requirement on a party pursuant to participation in the consultation.

“(e) MITIGATION OF SAFETY RISK.—In carrying out a consultation, the Secretary shall—

“(1) facilitate a discussion among the parties to the consultation;

“(2) encourage a mutual understanding of the safety risk; and

“(3) encourage, to the maximum extent practicable, voluntary agreements between the parties to the consultation to improve the physical safety of affected space object operations or mitigate the physical safety risk.

“(f) DURATION OF CONSULTATION; NOTICE.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary requires a consultation under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) complete all activities related to the consultation; and

“(2) submit to Congress a written notification with respect to such consultation, that includes—

“(A) the names of each party to the consultation;

“(B) a description of the physical safety risk at issue;

“(C) whether any voluntary agreement was made by the parties; and

“(D) the content of any such agreement.

“(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant any additional authority to the Secretary to regulate, or place conditions on, any activity for which a certification or permit is required under this subtitle.

“§ 80303. Appeal of denial or condition of certification or permit

“An applicant who is denied a certification under section 80103(b)(2)(B), an applicant who is denied a permit under section 80202(b)(2)(B), or an applicant whose certification or permit is conditioned pursuant to section 80103(c) or section 80202(c), respectively, may appeal the denial or placement of a condition to the Secretary. The Secretary shall affirm or reverse the denial or placement of a condition after providing the applicant notice and an opportunity to be heard. The Secretary shall dispose of the appeal not later than 60 days after the appeal is submitted. If the Secretary denies the appeal, the applicant may seek review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or in the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which the person resides or has its principal place of business.

“§ 80304. Limitation on certain agency supervision

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, no other agency shall have the authority to authorize, place conditions on, or supervise the operation of space objects required to be certified under chapter 801 or space-based remote sensing systems required to be permitted under chapter 802 except—

“(1) the Department of Transportation with respect to launch or reentry vehicle operations licensed under chapter 509; and

“(2) the Federal Communications Commission with respect to space stations licensed under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

“(b) AGREEMENT LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an agency from including additional terms, conditions, limitations, or requirements, consistent with applicable provisions of law, beyond those required in this subtitle in a contract or other agreement with—

“(1) the holder of a certification under chapter 801 for the operation of the applicable space object; or

“(2) the holder of a permit under chapter 802 for the operation of the applicable space-based remote sensing system.

“§ 80305. Commercial exploration and use of outer space

“To the maximum extent practicable, the President, acting through appropriate Federal agencies, shall interpret and fulfill international obligations, including under the covered treaties on outer space, to minimize regulations and limitations on the freedom of United States nongovernmental entities to explore and use space.

“§ 80306. Rule of construction on concurrent application submission

“Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to prevent an applicant from submitting to the Secretary concurrent applications for a certification under chapter 801 and a permit under chapter 802. The Secretary shall provide for applications under chapter 801 and chapter 802 to be filed concurrently or at different times, at the discretion of the applicant. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall avoid duplication of information required in concurrently filed applications.

§ 80307. Federal jurisdiction

"The district courts shall have original jurisdiction, exclusive of the courts of the States, of any civil action resulting from the operation of a space object for which a certification or permit is required under this subtitle.

§ 80308. Global commons

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, outer space shall not be considered a global commons.

§ 80309. Regulatory authority

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

"(b) REDUCING REGULATORY BURDEN.—In issuing regulations to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary shall avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, the placement of inconsistent, duplicative, or otherwise burdensome requirements on the operations of United States nongovernmental entities in outer space.

"(c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—All activities carried out pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of chapter 5 of title 5.

§ 80310. Consultation with relevant agencies

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall, as the Secretary considers necessary, consult with the heads of other relevant agencies in carrying out this subtitle.

"(b) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The consultation authority provided by subsection (a) shall not be interpreted to alter the exclusive authority of the Secretary to authorize, place conditions on, and supervise the operation of space objects under chapter 801 and space-based remote sensing systems under chapter 802, as provided in, and subject to, the limitations of section 80304.

§ 80311. Authorization of appropriations

"There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Office of Space Commerce for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to carry out this subtitle."

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle VIII—Authorization and Supervision of Nongovernmental Space Activities
801. Certification to Operate Space Objects 80101
802. Permitting of Space-Based Remote Sensing Systems 80201
803. Administrative Provisions Related to Certification and Permitting 80301"

(b) REPEALS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) Subchapter III of chapter 601 is repealed.

(B) Section 60147 is repealed.

(C) The table of sections for chapter 601 is amended by striking the item relating to section 60147.

(D) The table of sections for chapter 601 is amended by striking the items relating to subchapter III.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 20302(c)(2), by striking "means has the meaning" and inserting "has the meaning";

(B) in section 50702(c)(5), by striking "Space-Based Position" and inserting "Space-Based Positioning"; and

(C) in section 71102(1), by striking "tracking device" and inserting "tracking device to".

(2) CHAPTER 513.—The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item related to chapter 513 and inserting the following:

"513. Space Resource Commercial Exploration and Utilization 51301"

(3) CHAPTER 701.—The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item related to chapter 701 and inserting the following:

"701. Use of Space Launch System or Alternatives 70101"

SEC. 7. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

Section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end before the period ", which shall be located in the principal physical location of the Office of the Secretary of Commerce";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "a senior executive and shall be compensated at a level in the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5 as determined by the Secretary of Commerce" and inserting "appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director shall be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce and shall report directly to the Secretary of Commerce"; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) to authorize and supervise the operations of United States nongovernmental entities in outer space, pursuant to chapter 801 of this title;

"(7) to authorize and supervise the operations of space-based remote sensing systems pursuant to chapter 802 of this title; and

"(8) to facilitate and promote the development of best practices among operators of space objects and space-based remote sensing systems under this subtitle to address substantial risks to the physical safety of Federal Government space objects, including the risk of on-orbit collisions."

SEC. 8. RESTRICTION ON PREVENTING LAUNCHES AND REENTRIES OF CERTIFIED SPACE OBJECTS.

Section 50904(c) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "No launch or reentry may be prevented under this authority on the basis of national security, foreign policy, or international obligations of the United States, including under the covered treaties on outer space (as defined in section 80101) if the payload has received a certification to operate as a space object under chapter 801."

SEC. 9. REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce and in consultation with the Private Space Activity Advisory Committee established under section 80109 of title 51, United States Code, shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the space object registration obligations of the United States and other countries under Article VIII of the Outer Space Treaty and the Convention on Registration of Space Objects.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an identification of the practices and procedures among countries that are members of the Outer Space Treaty and the Convention on Registration of Space Objects in implementing and complying with the registration obligations contained in the treaties;

(2) a description of any existing practices and procedures of the Federal Government for the registration of nongovernmental space objects; and

(3) recommendations on how the registration of space objects in the United States could be improved to benefit the United States, including enabling United States leadership in commercial space activities.

SEC. 10. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on removing the Office of Commercial Space Transportation from under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration and reestablishing the Office under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Transportation. Such report shall include—

(1) the identification of key practices for successful organizational transitions;

(2) the advantages and disadvantages of the removal and reestablishment with respect to the ability of the Office to continue to coordinate and communicate with Federal Aviation Administration on airspace issues; and

(3) the identification of any issues that are preventing the Office from fully carrying out its statutory mandate, and if such issues would persist regardless of organizational location of the Office within the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 11. RADIOFREQUENCY MAPPING REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall complete and submit to the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing a report on space-based radiofrequency mapping.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) whether there is a need to regulate space-based radiofrequency mapping;

(2) any immitigable impacts of space-based radiofrequency mapping on national security, U.S. competitiveness and space leadership, and constitutional freedoms; and

(3) findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the costs and benefits of additional regulatory authority over space-based radiofrequency mapping; and

(4) an evaluation of—

(A) whether the development of voluntary consensus industry standards in coordination with the Department of Defense is more appropriate than issuing regulations with respect to space-based radiofrequency mapping; and

(B) how existing authorities, regulations, and laws could be applied in a manner that prevents the need for additional regulation of such mapping.

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the report required under subsection (a), the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report submitted under subsection (a) and the opinion of the Advisory Committee with respect to such report, including any critiques, concerns, recommendations, and endorsements. Such

opinion shall be submitted directly from the Chair of the Advisory Committee to those Committees of Congress without any review or change by the Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2809, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we give space exploration a booster rocket in the form of H.R. 2809, the bipartisan American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

The commercial space industry is poised to begin a major new vehicle for discoveries in space and national economic growth. It represents hundreds of billions of dollars in investments and the creation of thousands of jobs across the United States.

For years, there has been uncertainty about which Federal agency has responsibility for approving nontraditional space activities and ensuring conformity with the Outer Space Treaty. This uncertainty has cramped capital formation and innovation and has driven American companies overseas.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act remedies this situation by establishing a new, novel, legal, and policy framework that unleashes American free enterprise and businesses, assures conformity with Outer Space Treaty obligations, and guarantees that the U.S. will lead the world in commercial space activities throughout the 21st century.

H.R. 2809 increases American competitiveness and attracts companies, talents, and money that would otherwise go to other countries. In short, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act ensures that America and its workforce will benefit from the new space economy.

The need for this legislation became evident during the previous administration when legal uncertainty arose after U.S. space exploration companies sought payload approval from the Department of Transportation for its nontraditional space activities. But the DOT payload approval process is not designed to satisfy the requirements of complying with the Outer Space Treaty, so the Federal Government has been unable to assure the private sector that new and innovative space activities would be approved for launch.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act uses a commonsense ap-

proach to establish a sound legal foundation upon which U.S. industry can rely and flourish. It creates a self-certification process for the nongovernmental space activities that provides regulatory certainty for the U.S. commercial space sector, it assures U.S. compliance with Outer Space Treaty obligations, and it addresses national security concerns in the least burdensome manner.

Existing regulatory authority is currently spread across three Federal agencies, which has caused the review of commercial remote sensing applications to grind to a halt. H.R. 2809 consolidates this authority into one Federal agency, the Secretary of Commerce's Office of Space Commerce. The result, America gets a one-stop-shop for authorizing outer space activities.

Without H.R. 2809, America's space industry would continue to face legal uncertainty. Innovation would be stifled by burdensome and open-ended regulatory processes.

Other policies and interests of the United States are affected by private sector space activities, national security, in particular, but the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act improves national security by including remote sensing reform. By requiring a national security risk assessment during the remote sensing permitting process, this bill ensures that national security concerns are addressed.

H.R. 2809 improves the permitting process by creating a single decision point, increasing transparency, avoiding unnecessary reviews of technologies that have already been approved, and preventing the interagency process from indefinitely delaying decisionmaking. These changes allow our remote sensing industry to continue to lead the world.

The bill also goes farther than current law in providing for the physical safety of government assets in orbit. After operations are certified, the government can conduct an assessment of physical safety issues that will prevent disastrous collisions and help protect the safety of government and private assets.

Cosponsors of the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act include Space Subcommittee Chairman BRIAN BABIN and recent Science, Space, and Technology Committee member and now NASA Administrator, JIM BRIDENSTINE. Both Chairman BABIN and Administrator BRIDENSTINE have worked diligently to move this legislation forward. And Representatives PERLMUTTER, KILMER, and SOTO also helped develop this commonsense, bipartisan regulatory reform bill. Many thanks to all of them.

This transformative and groundbreaking legislation facilitates commercial liftoff and declares that America is fully open for business in space. American innovators, driven by ingenuity, competitive spirit, and bold vision are the future of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

Mr. Speaker, today we give space exploration a booster rocket in the form of H.R. 2809, the bipartisan American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act. The commercial space industry is poised to begin a major new initiative for discoveries in space and national economic growth. It represents hundreds of billions of dollars in investments and the creation of thousands of jobs across the U.S.

For years there has been uncertainty about which federal agency has responsibility for approving non-traditional space activities and ensuring conformity with the Outer Space Treaty. This uncertainty has cramped capital formation and innovation and has driven American companies overseas.

The Space Commerce Act remedies this situation by establishing a new, novel legal and policy framework that unleashes American free enterprise and businesses, assures conformity with Outer Space Treaty obligations, and guarantees that the U.S. will lead the world in commercial space activities throughout the 21st century.

H.R. 2809 increases American competitiveness and attracts companies, talents, and money that would otherwise go to other countries. In short, the Space Commerce Act ensures that America and its workforce will benefit from the new space economy.

The need for this legislation became evident during the previous Administration when legal uncertainty arose after U.S. space exploration companies sought payload approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its nontraditional space activities.

But the DOT payload approval process is not designed to satisfy the requirements of complying with the Outer Space Treaty. So the federal government has been unable to assure the private sector that new and innovative space activities would be approved for launch.

The Space Commerce Act uses a common sense approach to establish a sound legal foundation upon which U.S. industry can rely and flourish. It creates a self-certification process for non-governmental space activities that provides regulatory certainty for the U.S. commercial space sector. And it assures U.S. compliance with Outer Space Treaty obligations and addresses national security concerns in the least burdensome manner.

Existing regulatory authority is currently spread across three federal agencies, which has caused the review of commercial remote sensing applications to grind to a halt. Space-based remote sensing is the use of satellites to detect and classify objects on Earth, including on the surface and in the atmosphere and oceans, based on electromagnetic radiation. H.R. 2809 consolidates this authority into one federal agency—the Secretary of Commerce's Office of Space Commerce. The result: America gets a "one-stop shop" for authorizing outer space activities.

Without H.R. 2809, America's space industry would continue to face legal uncertainty. Innovation would be stifled by burdensome and open-ended regulatory processes.

Other policies and interests of the United States are affected by private sector space activities, national security in particular. But the Space Commerce Act improves national security by including remote sensing reform. By requiring a national security risk assessment

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The bill also goes farther than current law in providing for the physical safety of government assets in orbit. After operations are certified, the government can conduct an assessment of physical safety issues that will prevent disastrous collisions and help protect the safety of government and private assets.

Co-sponsors of the Space Commerce Act include Space Subcommittee Chairman BRIAN BABIN and recent Science Committee member, and now NASA Administrator, Jim Bridenstine. Both Chairman BABIN and Administrator Bridenstine have worked diligently to move this legislation forward.

And Representatives PERLMUTTER, KILMER, and SOTO also helped develop this common sense, bipartisan regulatory reform bill. Many thanks go to all of them.

This transformative and ground-shaking legislation facilitates commercial lift-off and declares that America is fully “open for business” in space.

American innovators, driven by ingenuity, competitive spirit and bold vision, are the future of space exploration. I encourage my colleagues to support the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 23, 2018.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am in receipt of your letter to the Speaker of April 20, 2018, regarding H.R. 2809, the “American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.” H.R. 2809 was referred solely to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The Science Committee ordered H.R. 2809 reported on June 8, 2017. Your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration is greatly appreciated.

I agree provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by withdrawing your request for a sequential referral of H.R. 2809, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this legislation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC, April 24, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am in receipt of your letter concerning H.R. 2809, the Amer-

ican Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017. Thank you for acknowledging that this legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forego action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that foregoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction. Lastly, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

Thank you for placing a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor, to memorialize our understanding.

I look forward to working with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER, Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2809, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space, I support a robust and successful commercial space industry, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on policies that facilitate our Nation’s contained growth and leadership in space.

The bill before us today, H.R. 2809, would provide a regulatory framework for U.S. innovative and emerging non-governmental space activities.

Commercial space launches, space-based remote sensing, and space communications are currently authorized under existing frameworks in the FAA, the Department of Commerce, and the FCC. However, proposed activities such as commercial operations on the Moon, asteroid mining, satellite servicing, and privately owned space habitats are not covered.

The bill establishes a certification process at Commerce for those emerging commercial space activities and, in so doing, provides important certainty for commercial companies and investors in these planned space activities. The bill also makes some updates to the licensing regime for commercial space-based remote sensing systems.

Further, the bill moves the regulatory oversight of commercial space-based remote sensing systems to the Office of Space Commerce under the Secretary of Commerce. The Office of Space Commerce would also have authority for the certification of non-traditional commercial space activities.

Mr. Speaker, I have often spoken about the importance of building a

rules-of-the-road framework that does not stifle innovation and provides guardrails for proper government oversight. No bill is perfect, but I believe that this bill strikes a fair balance in achieving the goal of certifying these nontraditional commercial space activities that don’t fit within the current regulatory structure.

That being said, while I support moving the bill forward, there are several aspects of H.R. 2809 that deserve further discussion, including ensuring that:

Relevant Federal agencies can weigh in on whether proposed commercial space activities could affect the physical safety of U.S. Government space operations, including human space flight operations;

Making sure that relevant government expertise and measures to perform harmful contamination of planetary surfaces are taken into account;

Making sure that any remaining national security and intelligence agency concerns are addressed;

And making sure additional information is provided on how the consolidated Office of Space Commerce will be properly funded and staffed so it can carry out the additional responsibilities for authorizing commercial space activities and commercial space-based remote sensing under the bill.

I am hopeful that these and other aspects of the bill will be addressed as the bill proceeds, both in the Senate and in any House-Senate conference.

Space is an area that should have bipartisan support from Congress. NASA and the commercial space industry can only benefit when we work together as Democrats and Republicans. As a result, I support passage of this bill, and I ask my colleagues to join me in helping to move this bill out of the House.

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

□ 1730

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee, for the comments that he just delivered, and also for cosponsoring this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chairman of the Space Subcommittee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an op-ed that I wrote in January called “A one-stop-shop for private space exploration.”

[Jan. 22, 2018]

A ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR PRIVATE SPACE EXPLORATION

(By U.S. Rep. Brian Babin)

In the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted National Space Council, Vice President Mike Pence called for an overhaul of how the U.S. regulates commercial space activities. The potential of a robust economy in space will “unlock new opportunities, new technologies, and new sources of prosperity,” Pence said.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act (H.R. 2809), recently passed by

the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, accomplishes the vice president's goals. This bill places authority over private sector space activities in the agency best equipped to foster economic growth, the Commerce Department. The bipartisan legislation streamlines regulatory processes, limits government intrusion, promotes American innovation and investment, protects national security and satisfies our Outer Space Treaty obligations.

As chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's space subcommittee, and as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have the unique perspective of overseeing both of these agencies. Because of this perspective, I believe placing this responsibility at the Commerce Department is a good long-term decision for the United States and the space industry.

The Obama administration proposed giving the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), housed within the Department of Transportation (DOT), responsibility for managing a broad interagency review of all private sector space activity proposals through an opaque process without defined approval timelines, regardless of how benign those activities may be. My committee held numerous hearings on this idea to hear directly from experts and stakeholders. We found that FAA accomplishes its current mission—managing launches and re-entry—very well. However, the agency is challenged to meet its existing obligations to regulate launch and reentry, and should not be burdened with the additional responsibility of authorizing and supervising private activities in space.

Moreover, current law actually prohibits DOT from regulating activities in space. It only has the ability to deny a launch if no other agency has licensed the activity. Congress did not intend or design this authority to create regulatory authority for on-orbit activities, or authorization or supervision process for Outer Space Treaty compliance.

In contrast, the Commerce Department's mission is to "create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity," and that mission runs deep through the culture. As the space economy develops, in-space activities will focus more on commerce, less on transportation logistics. Mining, habitation modules, and satellite servicing are only a few of the novel ideas that American innovators are proposing. These activities are not related to transportation, and DOT has no experience in this field. The Commerce Department, however, is familiar with the issues that future stakeholders will need to consider, including international trade and technology.

The bill also streamlines the federal space bureaucracy within the Commerce Department itself. It merges the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) responsibilities over space-based remote sensing into the already-existing Office of Space Commerce within the Commerce Department. NOAA is itself housed within the Commerce Department, so having two separate offices handling the same responsibilities makes no sense.

Reforming this splintered regulatory process minimizes the burden on other agencies and makes the Commerce Department a one-stop shop for Outer Space Treaty compliance. Giving DOT authority, as proposed by the previous administration, would split the regulatory system, requiring remote-sensing satellite operators to seek regulatory approval for their operations from both DOT and the Commerce Department.

Indeed, placing this authority at the Commerce Department is a continuation of long-standing law and national policy. Since 1984, Commerce has been the only federal agency

with the legal authority to authorize and supervise space activities. While the Federal Communications Commission regulates spectrum and DOT regulates launch and reentry, neither has the authority to authorize and supervise space activities generally to assure compliance with the Outer Space Treaty.

Some stakeholders have questioned whether the Office of Space Commerce can handle remote-sensing licensing and supervising general space activities. The answer is yes. The Commerce Department already has expertise authorizing and supervising remote-sensing systems, and the bill's streamlined review process is more transparent, quicker, and less burdensome on staff. Importantly, Commerce also has expertise in balancing national security with commercial interests, working with American industry internationally and in regulating space dual-use technologies through the Export Administration Regulations.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act declares that America is open for business in outer space. The only agency with the long-standing experience and culture to regulate and foster the budding space economy is the Commerce Department.

With this innovative legislation, which builds on that culture of transparency and clarity, we position the American space industry as a leader in growing a robust and lawful economy in space.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 2809, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act is a commonsense bipartisan bill that streamlines the regulatory processes, limits burdensome government intrusion, promotes American innovation and investment, protects national security, and satisfies our international obligations.

One of the fundamental drivers for this legislation has been that innovative American companies are pushing the boundaries. And when the Senate ratified the Outer Space Treaty 50 years ago, free enterprise in outer space was an idea but was not reality.

Today, not only does U.S. free enterprise exist in outer space, but it is innovating at an unprecedented pace. From asteroid mining to private Moon missions, to satellite servicing, to remote sensing constellations, there is great promise that American enterprise will soon unlock new wealth and scientific benefits.

But this promise is threatened; threatened by expansive, unchecked regulatory authority, cumbersome non-transparent regulatory processes, and misperceptions about the United States' Outer Space Treaty obligations.

For several years, we have heard concerns from stakeholders that they need greater regulatory certainty to attract investment and to succeed. Stakeholders also reported that while they want to stay in America, due to regulatory burdens and uncertainty, they might need to go overseas.

The American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act addresses these concerns without compromising our cherished principles of liberty and freedom.

It provides for presumptions of approval and requires the government to

take affirmative steps before conditioning or denying proposed space or remote sensing operations.

It places the burden of demonstrating inconsistency with Outer Space Treaty obligations and national security requirements of the United States with the government and not the applicant.

It curtails vague, overreaching regulatory authority and prevents tolling of statutory adjudication timelines. It ensures U.S. industry receives a timely and transparent determination on applications.

The bill recognizes legitimate national security equities and provides for the condition or denial of authorized space activities with remote sensing systems that are a significant threat to U.S. national security in certain circumstances. But it protects against abuses of interagency discretion by requiring an explanation and evidence of the threat before conditions or denial can be made.

In order to ensure the Office of Space Commerce is empowered to represent the interests of our citizens and the private sector, the director of the office is elevated to be the new assistant secretary for Space Commerce.

The act also advances important public policy interests. The bill establishes a mandatory safety consultation between private and Federal Government operators. The goal of this consultation is for the affected parties to reach a voluntary agreement to mitigate safety risks.

For parties subject to U.S. jurisdiction, the act provides for Federal district court jurisdiction for any civil action resulting from certified or permitted space operations.

To protect against foreign harmful interference, the act directs the President to protect against acts of foreign aggression and foreign harmful interference.

The act also addresses concerns of harmful contamination of the Earth or celestial bodies. Pursuant to our international obligations under the Outer Space Treaty, operations may be conditioned or denied by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with appropriate agencies such as NASA to address harmful contamination.

The bill posits longstanding U.S. policy, confirmed by both Department of State and NASA, that COSPAR planetary protection guidelines are not international obligations of the United States. This was done to allow all stakeholders, including the scientific community and industry, to work together as activities expand beyond scientific exploration and to address mutual interests, not by proscribing COSPAR guidelines as binding international law, but by allowing the Outer Space Treaty to guide our activities.

I am grateful to have worked with Chairman SMITH and Representative

BRIDENSTINE, recently confirmed as NASA administrator, in the development of this bill.

I am also very glad that this is a bipartisan bill, with the support of Representatives PERLMUTTER and KILMER and BERA.

I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Again, my op-ed is a very, very tell-tale reason and shows exactly why this is a great bill to put this under the Department of Commerce and take it out from under the Department of Transportation. For many reasons, I hope that this would be a source of debate and where we will get the reasons for what we are doing with this.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), my good friend and all-around champion of human space travel to Mars by 2033.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), the ranking member, and Chairmen SMITH and BABIN.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a supporter and cosponsor of H.R. 2809.

The United States has the best aerospace industry in the world. In order to stay number one, we need to provide certainty to American industry so it can attract investment and continue innovating to push our country forward.

We are at a time where we have the opportunity to set the standard of how to regulate space activities so there is a level playing field for our American industry.

That is why we need a certification process, as provided in the bill, to ensure compliance with the Outer Space Treaty. This process will reduce uncertainty and create a clear path to certification and to the launch of new spacecraft.

I have heard from stakeholders still discussing where to place this new authority. This legislation placed that authority in the Office of Space Commerce. Others have suggested the Office of Space Transportation at the FAA. I hope this discussion continues and we reach a consensus as we continue through the legislative process with the Senate.

The second part of this bill makes important reforms for the remote sensing industry. Satellite imagery or space images are also known as the remote sensing industry, and it is changing the way we see the Earth and enabling businesses of all types to find new opportunities.

A major remote sensing company named DigitalGlobe is headquartered in my district in Westminster, Colorado. I have heard stories about how long they have waited for a license determination under NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency—over 4 years in one case. This is well past the 120-day deadline currently required in statute because of a broken inter-agency review process and no mechanism to enforce a timeline.

This is why I believe the reforms in section 4 of the bill are overdue. Those companies in the remote sensing industry need certainty so that they can make sound plans and attract investors and customers. All of these regulatory delays mean lost revenue and significant expenses as they wait for approval. Section 4 of the bill helps fix that.

During the markup of this bill last year, we made improvements to the bill to ensure the Office of Space Commerce has the time needed to get its decisions right and to strengthen the consultation language to require the Secretary of Commerce to consult with other relevant Federal agencies.

Since the markup, I was pleased to see additions to the bill which ensure the proper balance with the defense community to ensure the Department of Defense has the proper input into remote sensing applications.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH, Chairman BABIN, and now-NASA Administrator Bridenstine for their work with me on this bill.

I thank Ranking Member JOHNSON and Ranking Member BERA for raising a number of important issues which we still have to address as we go through this process.

I believe the bill before the House today is a good bill, and I look forward to working with the Senate to pass these reforms into law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for his enthusiasm about space.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who is a very active member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee and of the Space Subcommittee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2809.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH for the great job that he has been doing, and also to Subcommittee Chairman BABIN and Subcommittee Ranking Member BERA. This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation, and I believe under Chairman SMITH's leadership, we have had a bipartisan committee in the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

H.R. 2809, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act, clears up the doubt around commercial space activities. Which agency is responsible? Who will give me the answers?

It is hard enough to create a new technology and develop new markets without having to get five different answers about which bureaucrat needs to sign off on what form. This uncertainty, this confusion, has forced companies overseas, much in the same way that companies were forced overseas before the Commercial Space Act of 2004, of which I was the author.

Now, as then, it is the fault of Congress for not keeping up with the industry. Now, as then, we choose to enable American cutting-edge space com-

panies by providing the framework in which they can build, test, and create. Now, as then, we choose to lead the world, and we are making this a better world through our space enterprise.

Do you remember when long-distance telephone calls cost a fortune? Ordinary people could not make phone calls to their loved ones. So in a way, by bringing down the cost and enhancing the quality of that type of communication through space-based enterprise, we have expanded the goodwill of people towards each other and their families throughout the world.

We have made sure, for example, that with space-based assets, even farmers know when to plant, thus we have more food production at a cheaper price, and space-based assets have made America safer.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to work with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) on these space-related issues, and I would hope that we continue to work together in cooperation, showing America's young people that we believe in the future, and whether it is Republican or Democrat, we are going to work together to make sure they have that future they deserve.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I think you have seen the genuine enthusiasm that Democrats and Republicans and all Americans have about space. It is in that spirit of national pride and American leadership that I urge all my colleagues to pass this bill, and, again, to continue to foster American leadership in space and meet that goal that my colleague Mr. PERLMUTTER often talks about, getting to Mars by 2033.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure working with the chairman of the full committee and the subcommittee, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank, publicly, Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for cosponsoring this legislation as well. I encourage my colleagues to support it, and I appreciate the remarks by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA).

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2809, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act. I believe that this bill strikes the right balance between supporting American innovation in space while addressing the potential national security concerns related to emerging space-based remote sensing capabilities.

It is not in our interest to overregulate emerging innovative space companies and drive them overseas to be licensed. We saw this happen with the synthetic aperture radar market, which fled to Europe in the 1990's, and our domestic market for that technology is still suffering the consequences.

But we also cannot allow the physical security and operational success of our warfighters to be jeopardized by new commercial technologies. Technologies such as commercial signals intelligence and space-based radio frequency mapping may contribute to the ability of our adversaries to more accurately track our forces as they execute their missions abroad.

We need to acknowledge the risks posed by these emerging technologies and allow the Department of Defense to have a role in addressing any national security threat posed by commercial remote sensing, space-based radio frequency mapping, and commercial signals intelligence.

This bill strikes a good balance in two core principles of American free enterprise—promoting innovation and protecting our national security. As it moves through the process, it may be that additional concerns may rise or be dispelled. The full range of national security concerns must be taken into account when making certification or licensing decisions for commercial remote sensing satellites. It is important that all relevant committees, including the House Armed Services Committee, be involved at each step to ensure that the totality of American national interest is promoted.

I would like to particularly thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his vision and for his patience in working through the variety of issues related to this legislation. The Congress will miss his leadership and good nature in the years to come.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 2809, the “American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017”. Before turning to my substantive concerns with the bill, I must note my disappointment with the process followed by the Majority—a process that led to the Majority’s putting this bill on today’s suspension calendar without any attempt to engage with the Minority to address our concerns in the ten months since the bill was marked up in the Science Committee. That is not the way we should be legislating in this House.

However, here we are. I would anticipate that very few Members have had any opportunity to review this legislation or to examine the issues it raises. So in my remaining time, I will attempt to identify a few of the concerns I have with this bill.

First, H.R. 2809 proposes a significant realignment of governmental space organizations, and a very significant increase in the responsibilities and authorities to be given the Department of Commerce’s Office of Space Commerce—an office that currently has only a handful of employees. These would include the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities. At the same time, the FAA’s Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA AST), which has built up significant expertise and staff over the years in the areas of licensing commercial space launches and reentries and which has coordinated authorization of a non-traditional space mission, would have no significant role in any of the commercial space activities covered in this bill beyond launch and reentry licenses. As a result, DoC will have to build a new bureaucracy to carry out its new duties, and in the process have to duplicate the skills that already reside in FAA’s AST. All of this would

be set in motion without a single House hearing on the proposal or any other substantive review of it.

At the same time that the Department of Commerce is given those significant new responsibilities, including ensuring compliance with the Outer Space Treaty, something that has been and is a core responsibility of the State Department, the bill would significantly limit DoC’s ability to disapprove a certification application as long as the paperwork is complete, regardless of any non-Outer Space Treaty-related concerns involving U.S. international obligations that the application might raise. Again, all of these measures are included in the bill without any substantive prior congressional review of the proposals. I could go on and cite other examples, but in the interests of time I will just note that the bill also would significantly weaken the enforcement of the international standards and guidelines covering “planetary protection”, i.e., the prevention of contamination of scientifically important sites on planetary surfaces or moons that might accrue from commercial space activities. These standards and guidelines were largely shaped by NASA through years of engagement in relevant international bodies, but the bill would replace them with a largely laissez-faire approach to the problem of potential contamination by commercial space activities.

Mr. Speaker, I will stop with that example. I could cite concerns raised by a number of agencies, including NASA, but the reality is that none of them are going to be resolved by today’s House debate on the suspension bill H.R. 2809. The potential for unintended negative consequences from provisions that have not been thoroughly vetted should give all of us pause, as should the pages and pages of comments from agencies such as NASA that warrant attention before the Congress finalizes legislation. For example, NASA’s has raised a concern about the bill’s ambiguity as to whether its activities will be subject to the oversight of another federal agency, especially those that involve the use of commercial services as part of a NASA mission, which could adversely impact its ability to carry out its challenging initiatives.

In closing, the bill before us attempts to address important issues that need our attention if we are to appropriately balance the needs of the emerging commercial space industry and the government’s responsibility to protect the interests of America’s citizens and honor our international obligations. It makes a positive contribution to the debate on how best to proceed in undertaking future commercial and governmental space endeavors. However, for the reasons I have already discussed, I think the bill is only partially successful in that attempt. In any event, many of these complex issues are not going to be resolved by a single piece of legislation and will likely require legislative efforts over multiple Congresses. That said, the bill before us does represent a useful starting point for discussion and debate. As a result, I do not intend to oppose this bill moving out of the House today. Instead, if after this bill leaves the House, the Senate decides to engage on this legislation or its own legislative approach, I hope and expect that the issues I have flagged today—along with others—will receive the bicameral scrutiny that they deserve.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and a former member of the Science Committee I am in strong support of H.R. 2809, the “American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their work to bring H.R. 2809 before the House for consideration.

There is historic congressional support for NASA in Congress, and I am proud to have played a leading role in this effort.

Now that space exploration has attracted strong private sector investments, space exploration has entered a new era.

I served on the House Science Committee for 12 years; and one of the goals was to see private sector investments in space exploration.

This legislation grants the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) of the Department of Commerce the authority to issue certifications to U.S. nationals and nongovernmental entities for the operation of:

1. specified human-made objects manufactured or assembled in outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies, with or without human occupants, that were launched from Earth; and

2. all items carried on such objects that are intended for use in outer space. To be eligible for certification, each entity’s application must include a space debris mitigation plan for the space objects.

H.R. 2809 also directs that the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) establish a Private Space Activity Advisory Committee to:

1. analyze the status and recent developments of nongovernmental space activities, and

2. advise on matters relating to U.S. private sector activities in outer space.

The bill authorizes the OSC to issue permits to persons for the operation of space-based remote sensing systems.

The OSC will also establish an Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing to provide advice on matters relating to the U.S. commercial space-based remote sensing industry.

The bill also abolishes the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It is our job as members of Congress to make sure that NASA continues to push the boundaries of what is possible, keeping our Nation on the forefront of innovation and exploration.

However, when the impossible becomes routine, and private sector interest in the area of space exploration attracts investment and further innovation in the area of commercialization it is fitting to support private sector efforts.

We should not forget the role that private and public sector efforts have made in developing and promoting advancements in aviation from its earliest beginnings.

The Wright Brothers were private citizens who devoted themselves to solving the problems associated with human flight.

Their success led others inside and outside of government to pursue innovations that led to the development of technology that ultimately led us into space.

NASA continues to be the world's premier space organization but as innovation and private interest in space continues we must make room for private sector interests.

We must provide for safe and responsible space innovations, while assuring that the United States remains a leader in this area.

H.R. 2809 maintains sustainability of purpose for the government's support of commercial space activities.

The bill lays the ground work for an expansion in commercial space activity and emphasizes the importance of maintaining a steady cadence of science missions that lead the way into deeper exploration of our planet, solar system and beyond.

This authorization addresses an issue of great importance to a sustained and healthy space program.

The bill provides a place in the Department of Commerce for remote sensing commercial space activity.

It is the responsibility of this Congress to ensure that the future of NASA is one of continued progress and that space exploration remains a part of our national destiny.

NASA inspires our children to look to the stars and dream of what they too may achieve one day.

Space exploration allows us to push the bounds of our scientific knowledge, as we carry out research projects not possible within the constraints of planet Earth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 2809.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2089, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INNOVATORS TO ENTREPRENEURS ACT OF 2018

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5086) to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5086

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 "Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps Program (hereinafter referred to as "I-Corps"), created administratively by the Foundation in 2011 and statutorily authorized in the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, has succeeded in increasing the commercialization of Government-funded research.

(2) I-Corps provides valuable entrepreneurial education to graduate students,

postdoctoral fellows, and other researchers, providing formal training for scientists and engineers to pursue careers in business, an increasingly common path for advanced degree holders.

(3) The I-Corps Teams program is successful in part due to its focus on providing the specific types of education and mentoring entrepreneurs need based on the early stage of their companies, however the program does not provide similar support to them at later stages.

(4) The success of I-Corps in the very early stages of the innovation continuum should be expanded upon by offering additional entrepreneurship training to small businesses as they advance toward commercialization.

(5) The excellent training made available to grantees of participating agencies through the I-Corps Program should be made available to all Federal grantees as well as other businesses willing to pay the cost of attending such training.

(6) The success of the I-Corps Program at promoting entrepreneurship within research institutions and encouraging research commercialization has been due in part to the National Science Foundation's efforts to date on building a national network of science entrepreneurs, including convening stakeholders, promoting national I-Corps courses, cataloguing best practices and encourage sharing between sites and institutions, and developing a mentor network.

(7) As the I-Corps Program continues to grow and expand, the National Science Foundation should maintain its focus on networking and information sharing to ensure that innovators across the country can learn from their peers and remain competitive.

SEC. 3. EXPANDED PARTICIPATION IN I-CORPS.

Section 601(c)(2) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-8(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(C) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—

"(i) ELIGIBILITY.—The Director, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Director, which may include Federal agencies, I-Corps regional nodes, universities, and public and private entities engaged in technology transfer or commercialization of technologies, shall provide an option for participation in an I-Corps Teams course by—

"(I) Small Business Innovation Research Program grantees; and

"(II) other entities, as determined appropriate by the Director.

"(ii) COST OF PARTICIPATION.—The cost of participation by a Small Business Innovation Research Program grantee in such course may be provided—

"(I) through I-Corps Teams grants;

"(II) through funds awarded to grantees under the Small Business Innovation Research Program or the Small Business Technology Transfer Program;

"(III) by the grantor Federal agency of the grantee using funds set aside for the Small Business Innovation Research Program under section 9(f)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(f)(1));

"(IV) by the grantor Federal agency of the grantee using funds set aside for the Small Business Technology Transfer Program under section 9(n)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)); or

"(V) by the participating teams."

SEC. 4. I-CORPS COURSE FOR COMMERCIALIZATION-READY PARTICIPANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the I-Corps program described in section 601(c) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-8(c)), the Director shall develop an I-Corps course offered by I-Corps regional nodes to support commer-

cialization-ready participants. Such course shall include skills such as attracting investors, scaling up a company, and building a brand.

(b) ENGAGEMENT WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.—In developing the course under subsection (a), the Director may consult with the heads of such Federal agencies, universities, and public and private entities as the Director determines to be appropriate.

(c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—The course developed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) support participants that have completed an I-Corps Teams course;

(2) support participants that have made the decision to take an innovation to market.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing an evaluation of the I-Corps program described in section 601(c) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-8(c)). Such evaluation shall include an assessment of the effects of I-Corps on—

(1) the commercialization of Federally funded research and development;

(2) the higher education system; and

(3) regional economies and the national economy.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—Out of amounts otherwise authorized for the National Science Foundation, there is authorized to be appropriated a total of \$5,000,000 for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 to carry out the activities described in section 4 and the amendment made by section 3.

(b) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5086, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act, H.R. 5086.

I thank my friend DANIEL LIPINSKI for introducing the legislation with me. He is a champion of the time-proven Innovation Corps program, better known as I-Corps.

This bipartisan piece of legislation is a result of the committee hearings on the I-Corps program. The Innovation Corps program was created by the National Science Foundation in 2011 to teach scientists and engineers how to

turn their laboratory innovations into successful commercial products and services.

This program assists scientists and engineers in the development of their academic research and equips them to bring that research into the private market. We have witnessed the wonderful successes of this program in my home State of Florida and across the Nation. H.R. 5086 expands the I-Corps program by creating a new course for commercialization-ready companies.

Following the completion of an I-Corps team course, individuals are eligible for this new course which will help them create, market, and eventually expand their private sector company. Through marketing, hiring, organizing, and attracting investors, these participants' success increases dramatically.

The bill breaks down the barriers experienced by current scientists when attempting to bring their product to market. Additionally, this bill expands the groups allowed to apply for the I-Corps program and offers new options for how to initially pay for the course.

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate my colleagues' support in passing this commonsense piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5086, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018, a bill that I introduced to spur entrepreneurship and turn American innovation into jobs.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) for being a lead cosponsor of this legislation.

This bill expands the National Science Foundation's highly successful Innovation Corps, or I-Corps, program, which, as my Science, Space, and Technology Committee colleagues know, I have been a major champion of since it was first created by NSF in 2011.

In 2016, I led the effort that officially authorized I-Corps. I-Corps teaches scientists and engineers how to turn their federally funded laboratory research into successful products and services. The program has educated more than 1,100 teams, including many women and underrepresented minorities, and has been linked to over 400 startup companies.

Since it was authorized in the last Congress, NSF has helped spread I-Corps to other agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, NASA, and the Department of Energy.

The Federal Government invests billions of dollars in research and development annually, both at government facilities like National Labs and at universities and research institutions. I-Corps is a modest investment that leads to a much higher return on our federally funded research by significantly increasing rates of commercialization and job creation.

Our economy is driven by the ingenuity of our scientists and engineers, developing innovations today that be-

come tomorrow's great products; and yet, still only a minority of federally funded research with commercial potential ever makes it to the marketplace. The I-Corps program helps change that.

But we can do even more, and this bill helps to do that. First, it helps more people participate in the program. Right now, unless you are a grantee of the NSF or another agency with an I-Corps program, the training can be difficult to access. This bill will give recipients of small business grants from any Federal agency the flexibility to pay for I-Corps with their grant funds. It will also let private citizens apply and pay out of pocket to participate.

Second, the bill directs NSF to establish a new course as part of the I-Corps program to teach scientist entrepreneurs how to start and grow a company. While the current I-Corps course does a great job of helping scientists develop innovation and determine whether or not it is suitable for commercialization, it offers only limited guidance for what to do after the decision is made to become an entrepreneur.

Skills such as how to write a business plan, hire a team, and attract investment are taught in business schools, but not in Ph.D. programs. NSF recognizes that need and has already begun a pilot program to test curricula for this new course. This bill will make sure the new course is fully developed and made available around the country.

Finally, this bill requires a GAO assessment of the I-Corps program, its first comprehensive, independent evaluation since it was created. Although the program's success to date speaks for itself, it is important to continuously improve it by developing metrics to measure its performance and to ensure that Federal funds are well spent.

This bill has been endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders, including the former NSF program officer who founded the program, Dr. Errol Arkilic; Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur who developed the curriculum that I-Corps is based on, Steve Blank; and directors of I-Corps Nodes around the country.

The bill is also endorsed by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, the National Venture Capital Association, the Council on Governmental Relations, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for their support of this legislation, and again I want to thank the lead cosponsor, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. I also want to thank Senator COONS, who is leading the Senate companion bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation which will help spur greater American innovation and create more jobs, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Space, Science, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER), a valued member of the Space, Science, and Technology Committee for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5086, the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act. The bill extends the reach of the National Science Foundation's Innovative Corps, or I-Corps, program, which trains and prepares scientists and engineers to advance their research results into entrepreneurial opportunities.

H.R. 5086 expands who is eligible to participate in I-Corps courses, allowing a portion of small business innovation research grants and small business technology transfer grants to be used to cover I-Corps training expenses. The bill also allows any private citizen to apply to participate and pay out-of-pocket.

H.R. 5086 authorizes a new I-Corps course for commercial-ready research ventures that teaches skills involving company organization, attracting investors, and hiring.

In research labs today lie the seeds for breakthroughs in new fields like quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and bioengineering. These breakthroughs will continue to transform our lives and the world we live in.

Many scientists and engineers are not trained for commercializing those ideas and did not go to business school or take any business development classes. I-Corps gives researchers tools to maximize the taxpayer investment in basic research and to spur innovation. H.R. 5086 builds on the success of the I-Corps program in building connections between academia and the private sector to create more startups and more jobs.

We thank the Research and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member DAN LIPINSKI and Representative DANIEL WEBSTER for taking the lead on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH again for his support of this legislation.

We all know that helping our scientists, engineers, and academics not only advances our knowledge and understanding of the world, but it also creates jobs and products that fuel our economy, which is a goal that all of us can agree upon.

As a former university professor, I know that it is not something that we teach in Ph.D. programs. We have the greatest researchers in the world here in the United States. We invest so much in Federal dollars for research. This is a simple program, low cost, that helps get the biggest bang for our buck, helps create jobs, and keeps

America on the leading edge of innovation in the world. It is something that we need for today and for our future.

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

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI, Chairman SMITH, and the entire House Science, Space, and Technology Committee for their support of this legislation. It is a good bill, and it will spur the creation of new businesses and new jobs.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for his leadership on this issue and for introducing this legislation.

Scientific research conducted at our nation's universities and national laboratories has had an undeniable impact on our daily lives. The societal impacts of research have been varied. Scientific advances have improved public health and safety, increased our national security, enhanced our quality of life, and advanced our economic competitiveness.

The societal benefit of research is only realized if the science successfully makes it out of the laboratory. This does not always happen, and in fact, the successful commercialization of scientific advances is largely the exception, rather than the rule.

The path from the laboratory to the market is difficult to navigate. Many promising ideas are never considered for commercialization, while some researchers invest significant time and money into launching a startup only to realize that there is no market for their innovation.

The commercialization of scientific research is an important driver of economic growth. Now, more than ever, global competition is pushing companies to innovate and incorporate new technologies into their business models. At the same time, researchers are generating innovative products, processes, and services with the potential to transform entire industries.

To maintain our position as the global leader in technological innovation, we must ensure that we are realizing the full economic potential of federal investment in research. Other countries have caught on to research as one of the secrets to our success, and they are nipping at our heels.

To accelerate and streamline the process of maximizing the impact of research beyond the laboratory, the National Science Foundation launched its Innovation Corps, or I-Corps, program in 2011. The NSF I-Corps program leverages existing curriculum, tools, and educational resources to prepare grantees to identify and pursue commercial opportunities with their NSF-funded research.

Since it was established, the I-Corps program has successfully provided entrepreneurship training to nearly 3,000 individuals at over 200 universities. Combined, I-Corps grantees have raised over \$100 million, with \$30 million coming from private investors. Grantees have used the skills and networks they gained from their I-Corps training to start over 360 companies.

The success of I-Corps has generated significant interest from individuals outside of academia. The Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018 expands the reach of I-Corps by extending eligibility to SBIR grantees and other outside entities. The bill also builds upon the existing I-Corps curriculum by adding a course to help research ventures that are ready to be brought to market.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5086, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2018.

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

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Due to my election to the House Armed Services Committee, this letter is to inform you that I resign my seat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

PAUL MITCHELL,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and agreeing to H. Con. Res. 111;

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5086; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO BRING THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP COMPETITION TO CANADA, MEXICO, AND THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 111) recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 3, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 148]
YEAS—392

Abraham	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Adams	Calvert	DeFazio
Aderholt	Capuano	DeGette
Aguilar	Carbajal	Delaney
Allen	Cárdenas	DeLauro
Amodei	Carson (IN)	DeBene
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Demings
Babin	Carter (TX)	Denham
Bacon	Cartwright	Dent
Banks (IN)	Castor (FL)	DeSantis
Barletta	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Barr	Cheney	DesJarlais
Barragán	Chu, Judy	Deutch
Barton	Ciulline	Diaz-Balart
Bass	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Bera	Clay	Donovan
Bergman	Cleaver	Doyle, Michael
Beyer	Clyburn	F.
Biggs	Coffman	Duffy
Bilirakis	Cohen	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (MI)	Collins (GA)	Ellison
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Emmer
Blum	Comer	Eshoo
Blumenauer	Conaway	Espallat
Blunt	Connolly	Estes (KS)
Bonamici	Cook	Esty (CT)
Bost	Cooper	Evans
Boyle, Brendan	Correa	Faso
F.	Costa	Ferguson
Brady (TX)	Costello (PA)	Fitzpatrick
Brat	Courtney	Fleischmann
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Flores
Brooks (IN)	Crist	Fortenberry
Brown (MD)	Crowley	Foster
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Foxx
Buchanan	Culberson	Frankel (FL)
Buck	Curbelo (FL)	Frelinghuysen
Bucshon	Curtis	Fudge
Budd	Davidson	Gabbard
Burgess	Davis (CA)	Gaetz
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Gallagher

Gallego
Garamendi
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren

Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham,
M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
McColum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Welch
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam

NAYS—3

Amash
Garrett
Gohmert

NOT VOTING—33

Black
Blackburn
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Chabot
Comstock
Crawford
Cummings
Dunn
Engel
Gowdy
Gutiérrez

Hartzler
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Kuster (NH)
Labrador
Lamborn
Matsui
McCarthy
Meng
Messer
Noem
Posey
Ratcliffe
Rooney, Thomas
J.
Royce (CA)

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INNOVATORS TO ENTREPRENEURS ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5086) to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 16, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 149]

YEAS—379

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Emmer
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte

Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzer
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham,
M.
Luján, Ben Ray
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
McColum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Ruthford
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suo zzi
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—16

Amash
Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Foxy
Garrett
Gohmert
Gosar
Griffith
Jones
Massie
McClintock

NOT VOTING—33

Black
Blackburn
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Chabot
Comstock
Crawford
Cummings
Dunn
Engel
Gowdy
Gutiérrez

Jenkins (WV)	Meng	Scalise
Johnson (LA)	Messer	Schiff
Kuster (NH)	Noem	Speier
Labrador	Posey	Swalwell (CA)
Lamborn	Ratcliffe	Waters, Maxine
Lynch	Rooney, Thomas	Yoho
Matsui	J.	
McCarthy	Royce (CA)	

□ 1906

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 148 and "yea" on rollcall No. 149.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 148 and "yea" on rollcall No. 149.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 817

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Representative CLAY HIGGINS of Louisiana be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 817.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5310

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 5310.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 774

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H. Res. 774.

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

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House ad-

journs today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 838, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 838

Whereas Barbara Pierce was born on June 8, 1925, in New York City;

Whereas Barbara Pierce became engaged to George Herbert Walker Bush and, while awaiting his return from combat during World War II, supported the war effort by working at a nuts and bolts factory in Port Chester, New York;

Whereas Barbara Bush was married to President George H.W. Bush for 73 years, and together they had 2 daughters, 4 sons, 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren;

Whereas as Second Lady of the United States, Barbara Bush became a passionate champion for family literacy and published "C. Fred's Story: A Dog's Life", which raised \$100,000 for Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy Action;

Whereas, in January of 1983, Barbara Bush joined the board of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and worked with Dr. Louis Sullivan to help raise \$10 million for the school's first capital campaign;

Whereas First Lady Barbara Bush founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in 1989, and over the course of 30 years raised more than \$110 million to support family literacy programs in every State across America;

Whereas while serving as First Lady, Barbara Bush visited facilities for AIDS victims and held infected babies and hugged adults, and in so doing, helped erase the stigma of that disease;

Whereas, in 1991, Barbara Bush and other advocates worked for the passage of the National Literacy Act of 1991, which created the National Institute for Literacy and permitted the use of libraries and other municipal property as evening literacy centers for adults;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Barbara Bush continued to support a broad range of important organizations and causes, including AmeriCares, the Mayo Clinic Foundation, the Leukemia Society of America, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Boys & Girls Club of America;

Whereas three primary schools and two middle schools in Texas have been named for Barbara Bush, along with an elementary school in Mesa, Arizona, the Barbara Bush Library in Harris County, Texas, and the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine;

Whereas Barbara Bush shares the rare distinction with Abigail Adams of being both a wife to, and mother of, a President of the United States, and is also the mother of a

Governor of Florida and a Governor of Texas; and

Whereas Barbara Bush was a truly great American, First and Second Lady of the United States, literacy advocate, author, mother, and "Ganny": Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its sympathies to the family of Barbara Bush; and

(2) honors the life of First Lady Barbara Bush and her contribution to the United States of America.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to speak about and reflect on the wonderful life of our former First Lady Barbara Bush.

To those who knew her, they knew the amount of love and kindness she exemplified every single day on this Earth.

She was a caring and compassionate wife, mother, and grandmother who displayed true devotion to her country in all phases of her life.

I had the great honor of knowing Mrs. Bush and her family. I have many fond memories of summertime with her and President Bush that my family and I will cherish forever.

On April 21, the day she was laid to rest in Houston, Texas, the congregation in that church and people all around the Nation remembered her with great fondness and admiration.

Our country is better because of Mrs. Bush. She will always be missed, but she will never be forgotten.

I hope all of you in this Chamber will join me for a moment of silence to remember the life and legacy of former First Lady Barbara Bush.

May God bless the Bush family and may God bless this great Nation that is better because of her.

□ 1915

ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO STUDENT VOTERS

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, young Americans vote at the lowest rates of any age group, and this is rooted in the unique obstacles faced by college students. When students move to a new campus, often in a new State, having never voted or even registered to vote, they lack the institutional support to help them navigate the voting process.

That is why Senator BOOKER and I have introduced the Help Students Vote Act. Our legislation will take

three major steps in eliminating the obstacles students face in voting.

First, it requires every college and university to send voter registration information to all its students twice a year, at least 30 days before registration deadlines.

Second, it requires every school to designate a campus vote coordinator to answer students' questions about voting and to promote voting.

And third, it encourages civic engagement by authorizing grants to colleges and universities that take exemplary action to promote political participation.

The Help Students Vote Act is essential and will help our country better engage the next generations of American citizens.

TEXAS LAWMAN CHRISTOPHER GAINES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable that Harris County, Texas, Precinct 4 Deputy Constable Christopher Gaines is alive.

On April 17, Deputy Gaines and three other officers responded to a domestic violence call in Atascocita, Texas, where we both live. Approaching the house, the officers were cautious, and rightfully so. After all, Mr. Speaker, 22 percent of police officers that are shot occur during domestic violence calls.

Suddenly, the outlaw dashed out of the house with his guns blazing. The deputies returned fire, but with little or no area to take cover, 2-year veteran of the force Deputy Constable Gaines was shot in the abdomen at point-blank range with a shotgun. Gaines' wife even heard the shots from their nearby home.

Gaines' fellow officers rushed him to the hospital and put him directly into surgery.

Gaines' only thoughts were of his wife and his 4-year-old daughter, Zoey. Thanks to the good Lord, and the medical professionals at Memorial Hermann, Zoey's dad is alive. After speaking with him, he told me he is in high spirits and expected to recover. He is already talking about returning to work.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Christopher Gaines is one of the rare breed of American lawmen that always stand ready to protect and defend the rest of us from evildoers.

And that is just the way it is.

AMERICANS DESERVE A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, New Jersey's 10th Congressional District is the home of the Port Newark-Elizabeth

Marine Terminal, the largest port on the East Coast; Newark Liberty International Airport; Amtrak's Boston-to-D.C. line, the center of that line; I-95; and Route 78 going west in this great Nation. Transportation infrastructure drives my district's economic growth and the economy of States throughout the Northeast.

The White House and congressional Republicans have spent the past year promising to rebuild America's infrastructure, but all the American people have gotten is a raw deal that would sell off America's infrastructure to Wall Street and leave Main Street to fill in all the potholes.

The people who live in my district deserve a better deal than they are getting under this majority and this administration.

My Democratic colleagues and I have a real plan to rebuild America. It is five times as big as the puny proposal by the White House. Democrats want to create 16 million new good-paying jobs, build bridges, clear roads, broadband, schools, water infrastructure, energy grids, and transit. That is what my constituents and the American people deserve.

TERM LIMITS ARE NEEDED IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the dire need we have for term limits in the Congress. Eighty-six percent of Americans agree, but it is possible that Congress doesn't.

I have introduced the Thomas Jefferson Public Service Act of 2018 to create a limit of 12 years without amending the Constitution, something which we all know will never happen. It is time for Congress to "fish or cut bait."

To the argument about the value of seniority, I would humbly suggest that we ask the 18- to 25-year old millennials in our country, these folks here, who will be voting and taking over the workforce. As you can see here, they voted massively for Democrats in 2016—that is the blue—and would have left an electoral college of 504 Democrats and 23 Republicans.

Across the business world where I come from, employers are responding to the millennials' lack of concern for seniority, refusal to wait their turn, and questioning deference to authority. I am not making a value judgment. I am telling you, that is the way they are; and if you want employees and good people, you have got to deal with their concerns. The digital age is different.

We Republicans have a chance of convincing them that we are nimble, flexible, and responsive by adopting this law. If we stay in our rut, like Hamlet, we deserve our fate.

AMERICA DESERVES A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, last year, this Chamber rammed through a tax cut for billionaires and wealthy corporations, paid for on the backs of America's middle class. You don't hear them talk about it much anymore though because it was a very bad deal.

This year, the President's budget includes \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicare, and Republicans want to eliminate Medicare and turn it into a voucher. That is a bad deal.

The President's budget includes a \$1.4 trillion cut to Medicaid. My Republican colleagues have tried to cut Medicaid time and time again with ACA repeals. Those are a bad deal.

Today, more than half of our seniors would live in poverty without Social Security. They rely on Medicare and Medicaid to care for them in their golden years—from doctors' visits to prescription drugs to nursing homes. After all, seniors pay toward these programs through their entire working life.

Democrats have plans to strengthen Social Security, strengthen Medicare, and strengthen Medicaid. That is a better deal, and America and her people deserve a better deal.

HONORING BEN QUINN, SR.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Quinn, Sr., from Glasgow, Kentucky, for his induction into the University of Kentucky College of Engineering Hall of Distinction.

Ben graduated from the College of Engineering in 1966, and has over 50 years of experience in civil engineering. Thirty-five years ago, he started his own company, American Engineers, Inc., with only two employees, in Glasgow. Now, American Engineers has over 100 employees in Kentucky and Georgia.

American Engineers has worked on several projects in Kentucky's Second District, including the William H. Natcher Parkway, the Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, and the Western Kentucky University baseball field.

Next week is Small Business Week, and I cannot think of a better example of building a small business from the ground up than Ben, his wife, Dianne, and his family. Ben is an outstanding member of our community, and I am proud to recognize his achievements.

COMMEMORATING THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Armenian community to commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with my colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO. We both represent a large constituency of Armenians in the San Joaquin Valley.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire began to systematically deport and kill 1.5 million Armenians, sending them to their death. It was systematic, it was planned. But as history has shown, the Armenian people are stronger than any attack, even genocide; the first genocide in the 20th century, by the way.

Many Armenians settled in California's San Joaquin Valley, where I was raised, and now I have the honor to represent. I heard their stories of their losses with their families, but I also saw their determination, their joy, and their strength, and their contributions to our community and to our Nation.

The Armenian people show us that we must move forward, but we must never forget where we are from and who we are; therefore, the Congress and the President must, sooner than later, officially go on record recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Tonight, I stand with the Armenian people and commemorate their spirit. As we move forward, we must never forget.

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST IN THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those lives lost in the Armenian Genocide more than 100 years ago. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire engaged in the systematic and organized deportation and extermination of over 2 million men, women, and children from Armenia. Today, these horrific events have become known as the Armenian Genocide.

Many of those able to flee immigrated to the United States and settled in the Central Valley of California. Today, their families continue to grow, thrive, and pass along their cultural heritage into their adopted communities.

The sense of loss as a result of these horrific acts runs deep, as many Armenian Americans personally know a friend or family member who was unable to escape the genocide. As a result, the Armenians throughout the United States have been steadfast in their efforts to continue to ensure the memory of those lost never fades.

Despite the horrors of this time and broad international consensus that these events are rightfully identified as "genocide," the foreign policy of the United States refuses to acknowledge what so many already know to be true.

As co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to stand with me in recognizing and remembering the 2 million lives who were lost or forever changed by these tragic events.

AMERICA'S RETIREES HAVE EARNED A BETTER DEAL ON PENSION SECURITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, for more than 30 years, greedy corporate chieftains, enabled by the Republican Party, have chip, chip, chipped away at workers' rights, decent wages, and secure pension benefits. In fact, they have even moved corporations to penny-wage environments, all in the name of preventing workers from improving their lives here and the lives of their families.

Our latest fight is to ensure pension security for retirees who have already paid into their earned benefits. Since 2014, we have fought to protect millions of multi-employer pensioners at risk of insolvency. Pensioners should yield what they were guaranteed.

Democrats have proposed solutions to ensure these retirees get a better deal. We have rallied behind the Butch Lewis Act, which has 156 cosponsors, including Republicans.

But where is the House Republican leadership? Instead of helping retirees across this Nation with pension security, they forced passage of a \$1 trillion tax cut for the rich. This should tell you all you need to know about the Republicans' raw deal.

Our 2018 recent funding bill vote secured a Committee on Pension Solvency that is tasked to find a solution by the end of this year. America's retirees shouldn't be let down. They have earned a better deal.

HONORING JENNIFER O'BRIEN, 2018 NEW YORK MOTHER OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend, Jennifer O'Brien, of Binghamton, New York. She was recently designated as the 2018 New York Mother of the Year. Jennifer has dedicated her life to helping others and especially those who have been less fortunate.

Jennifer is the mother of two beautiful children, both of whom have cerebral palsy. Along with her full-time job at Health Processes, Jennifer serves as the executive director of Life Is Washable and as the executive director of the American Special Hockey Association.

Through Life is Washable, Jennifer has implemented innovative programs which have allowed children with spe-

cial needs to play sports and participate in community events with their families. In addition to serving over 50,000 people with these programs, Jennifer serves over 3,000 members of the American Special Hockey Association.

She is also responsible for the construction of the largest accessible playground in New York State, known as OurSpace at Rec Park in Binghamton, New York.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jennifer O'Brien's outstanding accomplishments as a wife, a mother, and an advocate. Jennifer is one of those rare individuals who possesses endless energy, integrity, courage, tenacity, and compassion.

□ 1930

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE WAFFLE HOUSE SHOOTING IN TENNESSEE

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of a deadly mass shooting at a Waffle House in Antioch, Tennessee, early on the morning of Sunday, April 22.

Four young, promising lives were lost: Joe R. Perez, DeEbony Groves, Taurean C. Sanderlin, and Akilah DaSilva. They crossed paths at the restaurant expecting nothing more than good food. Now four young lives are lost, and we mourn with their families and friends.

I would also like to recognize Mr. James Shaw, Jr., a native Nashvillian and an American hero. Mr. Shaw bravely stopped this attack from being even worse. His courageous and decisive action saved many lives. Now, Mr. Shaw doesn't consider himself a hero, but his actions clearly prove that he is a hero. He gave us hope on one of our darkest days.

We are heartbroken for the tragic loss of life, but we are heartened and proud of our hometown hero. May we remember Mr. Shaw's words:

I hope that we can bring violence to an end in all facets, not just gun violence, but all violence.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of a deadly mass shooting at a Waffle House in Antioch, Tennessee, on the morning of Sunday, April 22.

Four young, promising lives were lost, and two other people were injured. Today we mourn Joe R. Perez, 20 years old, who moved to Nashville to live with his grandmother and work at his brother's business; DeEbony Groves, 21, a senior at Belmont University who was weeks from earning a degree in social work; Taurean C. Sanderlin, 29, a Waffle House employee who was outside on a break; and Akilah DaSilva, 23, a student and aspiring musician. They crossed paths at the Waffle House, expecting nothing more than good food. Now, four young lives are lost. We mourn with their families, friends, and the Antioch community.

I would also like to recognize Mr. James Shaw, Jr. a native Nashvillian and an American hero. Mr. Shaw bravely stopped this attack from being even worse. His courageous and decisive actions saved many lives. In Mr. Shaw's own words, he "saw an opportunity and took it."

Later Sunday morning, after receiving treatment for his own injuries, Mr. Shaw went home to see his family. He is a loving father to his 4-year-old daughter, Brooklyn. He then went to the church he has attended since he was a baby. Mr. Shaw's greatest concern is for the other victims, and he has organized a fund to support them.

Mr. Shaw doesn't consider himself a hero, but his actions clearly prove otherwise. Mr. Shaw gave us hope on one of Nashville's darkest days, and he embodies the very best of our community. We are forever grateful for his bravery and his willingness to put his own life at risk in order to save others.

We are both heartbroken for the tragic loss of lives but proud of our hometown hero. This tragedy will not define our city. We are grateful to people all across America who have supported our community with prayers and financial support.

May we all remember Mr. Shaw's words: "I hope we can bring violence in all facets—not just gun violence, but all facets of violence—to an end."

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, April 29 through May 5 is National Small Business Week.

Recent studies and surveys have shown that small business optimism is at an all-time high, and I have seen that firsthand with the businesses I have met throughout the big First District in Kansas.

Today, I rise to recognize the hard work and perseverance our small-business owners have and acknowledge their critical role in our local communities.

In the United States, small businesses create about two out of every three jobs per year, and more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business.

Over the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with many of the small businesses across my district. From Superior Boilerworks in Hutchinson to Midwest Energy in Hays, I have listened and learned about the issues they face and the ways that Congress can better support small businesses in Kansas.

Due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, I am proud that small businesses will now work with lower tax rates and a fairer Tax Code. From big cities to small towns, entrepreneurs and small-business owners across the country are creating jobs and contributing to the growth of local economies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating our small-business leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA "PATI" MESTAS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Patricia "Pati" Mestas.

Pati was a good mother to her three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Patricia was a retired gas station and convenience store worker who loved country music and traveling. Patricia would go to almost every country show within driving distance of her house. One of her favorite artists was Jason Aldean, and she was excited to see him perform at the Route 91 festival on October 1 in Las Vegas.

Patricia loved to laugh and smile. She had a fun-loving spirit and was young at heart. Patricia is remembered for being outgoing, likable, and being sensitive to other people's concerns and problems.

I would like to extend my condolences to Patricia Mestas' family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

HONORING MOLLY SALMI

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce staff who is retiring after more than 29 years of public service.

Molly McLaughlin Salmi began her congressional career as a staff assistant on the committee in the 100th Congress. She rose through the ranks and has served as Deputy Director of Workforce Policy for the last 16 years.

Eight committee chairs, Republicans and Democrats, have had the benefit of Molly's guidance, direction, and honest feedback. Molly may be the longest serving member of the committee's workforce staff, but she has the heart of an educator.

Long ago, she established herself as a trustworthy, wise, and encouraging mentor to members of the committee staff. As an educator myself, I know it sometimes isn't easy to share what you know with someone one-on-one, to watch them try, sometimes fail, and get back up again. Molly has not only made mentoring look easy, but she has set a standard for paying it forward that we should all strive to reach.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Molly all the best, and we will miss her more than she will ever know.

BETTER DEAL VERSUS RAW DEAL

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, for too many hardworking families, job oppor-

tunities are down, medical bills are up, and wages are flat—and people are sick and tired of getting a raw deal from Washington.

Let me tell you what a raw deal looks like.

I met a homecare nurse who lives near me. She works full time. Her husband works full time, too. All they want to do is give their two kids the best childhood they possibly can. But they can't even afford to take their kids to the movies because tickets and popcorn and soda are just a little too much. When I asked what they do for fun, she said they have cable television.

So how are we supposed to explain to a family like this, who can only give their kids the Disney Channel instead of Disney World, that the majority in Congress just gave \$3.5 billion in taxpayer funds to the six largest banks on Wall Street?

That is a raw deal, and it is wrong. Instead, we should fight every single day to give a better deal, built on a foundation of better jobs, better pay, and a better future for all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE ARMY RESERVE'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, April 23, the Army Reserve marked 110 years in service to the Army and the United States of America, evolving from the Medical Reserve Corps in 1908 to the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal Federal Reserve force in our Nation's history.

I rise to say thank you to our soldiers, both past and present, and their families for serving all these years.

In today's full-spectrum environment, America's Armed Forces must be prepared to respond quickly to capable and sophisticated high-end threats. They must conduct sustained counterterrorist operations, and they must deter aggression in multiple regions of the world while simultaneously defending the homeland.

The Army Reserve has a congressionally authorized strength of 199,000 soldiers, more than 11,000 civilians, and 2,075 units. The Army Reserve accounts for 20 percent of the Army's organized units and provides nearly half the Army's total maneuver support.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly thank the Army Reserve for defending our Nation with honor and distinction for the past 110 years.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOE BILL DICKERSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of

Mr. Joe Bill Dickerson, who passed away on March 24 at the age of 88.

Mr. Dickerson was raised in Homerville, Georgia, in Georgia's First Congressional District, and truly worked hard throughout his life to make this world a better place.

After graduating from college with an agriculture degree, Mr. Dickerson enlisted in the Air Force, training in chemical, biological, and radiological warfare. He served in the Air Force until 1953, when he went on to pharmacy school at the University of Georgia.

Mr. Dickerson served in many levels of pharmacy. He worked in pharmaceutical sales, at a hospital, a local pharmacy, and even became a pharmacy professor at the University of Georgia.

Today, pharmacists like myself work throughout the State of Georgia who learned their craft under the watchful eye of an experienced Mr. Joe Bill Dickerson. His expertise, colorful personality, and dedication to the betterment of others will truly be missed.

A GOOD DEAL, A BETTER DEAL, AND A RAW DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back here on the floor to talk about a good deal, a better deal, and a raw deal. But before I get into a discussion about how we can move this Nation forward and how our colleagues on the other side are really taking us in the wrong direction, I want to put this up for us to take a look at.

I suspect I caught your attention having it upside down. I did that on purpose.

I often start these discussions with this. It is from FDR, one of his great speeches. He said: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

I keep coming to this because it is a statement of values. It is a statement of direction. It is a statement of what I believe we should be doing as Members of Congress and as leaders of this Nation.

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

My Democratic colleagues and I take this to heart, and we try to structure our policies, our programs, and the direction in which we want our country to go along this line, to make sure that those in our Nation, those in our community, those in our States, and even within our families, that they have enough—enough of the wealth of this Nation so that they can enjoy the

fruits of their work, so that as they labor that 8 hours or 10 hours or 12 hours a day that they put in, it provides them with enough income so that they can have what we learned from our Founding Fathers: happiness.

That is not where we are today. That is not what is happening today. Yes, the economy is moving. Yes, the unemployment rate is down. But this Congress has just passed a monumental tax scam back in December, presumably to grow the economy, and when you look at that, it is not a better deal, which is what we Democrats want for America. We want a better deal, one in which healthcare costs come under control, where prescription drugs can be available, where we have a real infrastructure program that actually will build the sanitation systems, the water systems, dealing with those communities like those in Michigan that have contaminated water and those in my State of California where the wells go dry—and if they are not dry, those wells are contaminated.

□ 1945

We want a better deal for America so that the minimum wage actually provides sufficient income so that a family cannot only survive, but be able to pay the rent, be able to educate their kids, be able to put food on the table, and maybe even have a vacation.

We want a better deal for America. We want a country that is internationally competitive. We want a better deal for America's mariners, not where the maritime industry continues to decline as it has for the last 20, 30 years, but rather where it is built up.

Legislation such as I proposed that would require that a certain percentage, a small percentage, of the natural gas, one of our vital natural resources; and our oil, another vital natural resource, that it be shipped overseas on American ships with American sailors, who can continue to provide the necessary support for our military so that our shipyards can build those LNG container ships as well as the oil ships.

We want a better deal for America. That is what we are here for. There are so many things. How about an education? Why should it be that here in America the Federal Government provides student loans, not at the lowest possible interest rate, which would be the borrowing rate for the Federal Government plus maybe one-half of a percent for administrative purposes, but oh, no, our Federal Government charges maybe twice as much as what the Federal Government could actually borrow money for. So the markup is like 100 percent.

That is a raw deal for America. And we tried to change that with policy changes that would allow for the refinancing of student loans. We want a better deal for those students as they come out of school, not burdened by heavy debt, but, rather, able to start a family, buy a car, buy a home, start a small business. But oh, no, somehow

our Republican colleagues won't consider refinancing student loans. Americans are able to refinance their homes, but not their student loans. Something is wrong here. We want a better deal for America. There are so many policies.

We want a strong, capable military, but we also want a smart military. We want a government that will protect us from cyber hacking. Look what has happened to America. We basically have allowed the Russians to hack into our energy systems, into our power grids. That is not a good deal for America. So where is the Federal Government stopping that? What action has the President taken to protect our electorate, to protect our policies?

There is one raw deal after another—when we offer a better deal, an active Federal Government that will protect us in cybersecurity. That is what we want. We can't get it. We can't do that now because our Republican colleagues are controlling the House. What they offered us was a tax scam that is leading to one raw deal after another raw deal.

Let's understand exactly what has happened here with this tax policy. Perhaps we could see it best here. In the tax scam, the GOP gives to the rich and makes every other American pay for it. They do it in just three easy steps.

First of all, they cut taxes for the rich. I don't know what you have heard about this tax deal that passed with great fanfare just before Christmas and the President went down to Mar-a-Lago just after he signed it. He talked to all of his rich buddies and said: I have made you so much more wealthy. Indeed, he did—\$1.5 trillion-plus, plus more than that. Tax cuts, who got them? Eighty-three percent of all of that money went to American corporations and to the top 1 percent—\$1 trillion and more. It is a raw deal for Americans—a tax scam of unprecedented proportions, foisted upon the American public as though somehow it would be good for them. That is step one.

They said this tax bill will pay for itself. The essence of trickle-down economics is what it was. And so what is the next thing that happens? Well, when they passed this bill, there wasn't a deficit hawk to be found on the Republican side of this House. Not one word did I hear from the deficit hawks as they ramped through this tax scam without one public hearing here in the House of Representatives. No accountant came in, no tax lawyer came in on a public hearing. Slam, bang, done. It was done—done in for Americans.

Oh, the deficit hawks weren't exterminated. They are not an endangered species. They just simply migrated out of town. Guess what? They are back. The deficit hawks are back, and they are back with a vengeance. They are back with a plan that will rip the guts out of programs that Americans depend upon: Social Security,

Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps. Oh, yes, they are back, because they exploded the deficit.

They exploded the deficit. We will have close to a \$1 trillion deficit this year. It started at \$440 billion before the great tax scam and now added on to it. Next year—let's just take a look.

People say: Oh, you are just a politician. You are just up here talking. Here is some real news, not fake news. Real news. And this comes from—well, let's see, "Republican tax cuts to fuel historic deficits: CBO," reported by Reuters, April, 2018.

"Deficit to top \$1 trillion per year by 2020, CBO says," reported in The Washington Post, April 9, 2018.

"CBO: GOP policies add nearly \$1.6 trillion to deficit," Axios, April 9, 2018.

Here is one in The Wall Street Journal: ". . . wider than previously expected budget deficits and a mostly temporary spurt in economic growth." Real news, not fake news.

So the deficit has exploded and so the deficit hawks return to town, and what do they want? Well, now they demand big cuts—big, beautiful cuts to: Medicare, nearly \$1 trillion; Social Security, half a trillion; education; Medicaid. That is what the deficit hawks want because they have come to understand that their big, beautiful tax scam really is sending this country into a huge deficit for years to come.

So here is what they propose to do: Republicans will cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to pay for their tax scam. Says who? Says the Speaker of the House. "Ryan says Republicans to target welfare, Medicare, Medicaid spending in 2018," his words reported in The Washington Post, December 6, 2017.

"Top Republicans are already talking about cutting Medicare and Social Security next," reported by Vox news, December 20, 2017.

"House GOP Budget Plan Cuts Medicare and Social Security," The Atlantic.

"Trump Proposes to Cut Medicare and Spend Big on Wall, Defense"—his budget. You heard some of my colleagues talk about this earlier.

So what did the tax scam bring us? A raw deal—a raw deal for millions upon millions of Americans.

We want to do it better. We want a better deal for Americans. We can control prescription drugs if we had the votes. We could allow the Federal Government to negotiate prices for drugs given to or provided for Medicare recipients, Medicaid recipients, and others. We could do it. It is a simple law.

We can do an expansion. We can maintain the expansion of the Affordable Care Act so that some 16 million, 18 million Americans could stay on Medicaid around the country. In California, 3.5 million Americans are potentially going to lose their healthcare insurance if the Republicans have their way with Medicaid cuts.

That is a lot of people. That is a lot of families that are not going to have

insurance. The majority of children now born in California and in many other States are on Medicaid. We call it Medi-Cal in California. So what of them? What of those children? What kind of a healthy start will they have?

Speaking of Healthy Start, it was one of the programs that the President proposed be cut. What sense does that make? All so that the tax scam can give \$1.5 trillion to American corporations and to the 1 percent. Trickle-down economics—oh, they said it works. Really? They say it works. Does it really work?

Well, let's take an example. I talked a moment ago about drugs. The most expensive illnesses in this Nation are dementia and Alzheimer's. One dollar out of every \$5 spent by Medicare today is spent for that. And as the baby boomer population grows and a percentage of our population grows into their later years, Alzheimer's is going to bust the bank.

One of the great American drug companies, Pfizer, had a major Alzheimer's research program underway to look for that miracle drug to understand what Alzheimer's is all about, how the brain works or doesn't work. So they received a \$3 billion or \$4 billion tax reduction in the GOP tax scam. They immediately turned around, terminated the Alzheimer's research program that they were conducting, and spent the money on stock buybacks and increased dividends.

Do you know what that does? A stock buyback will increase the price per share because there are fewer shares outstanding. Do you know who benefits? You got it: the corporation executives, because their pay is based upon an increase in the value of the stock—not in more and better drugs, not in hiring more people, not in more research, but only by manipulating the price of the stock earnings per share.

That is what the tax scam did, and it is repeated all across this country. Oh, I know, they promised a one-time bonus, not an increase over the years in the salaries and the wages paid to workers, but a one-time bonus. Less than 13 percent of the reduced tax benefit to corporations has gone to pay for salaries and wages.

□ 2000

That is what the tax scam did. It is the ultimate trickle down. The Democrats want a better deal for America. We have had enough raw deals. We know that there is a possibility should our proposals on infrastructure be taken seriously by our Republican majority: programs such as PETER DEFazio's A Penny for Progress, with serious infrastructure, over time putting 16 million people to work; programs such as I proposed dealing with the export of natural gas and oil and that it be on American ships—not all of it, just a small percentage of it. We could build 50 to 100 ships and put mariners to work and, at the same time, provide the necessary ocean transport for our military.

We need real Make It In America policies, not something soft and fluffy, but real, strong Make It In America policies, so if we are going to spend your taxpayer dollars, those taxpayer dollars would be spent on goods and services made in America.

How many years have I been talking about Make It In America policies?

Through our efforts, we were able to increase, a little bit, the percentage of made in America for the highway dollars. We are not where we ought to be. We ought to bump that up to 80, 90, 100 percent so that we can really manufacture once again in America.

All the talk of the President doesn't deal with this unless you write a law that says your tax dollars will be spent on American-made equipment and services, not on stuff imported from China. No.

We are going to continue to push the Make It In America policy as one of the elements of a better deal, a real deal, and not a raw deal. You are going to hear a lot about this in the days to come. You will hear a lot about this in the days to come because we believe Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he said the test of our progress is not when we add more to the abundance of those who have much.

The test of progress is an F grade given to the President and to the GOP, to my Republican colleagues, when they passed the great tax scam of 2017 and gave a trillion dollars-plus to the superwealthy, to the Wall Street bankers, and to America's big, wealthy corporations that had so much gas they didn't know what to do with it before there was a tax cut. So they give it back to Wall Street.

The test of our progress is not when we add more to the abundance of those who have much—and here is where we are as Democrats—it is whether we provide enough. It is for those young mothers out there who need maternity care and who will deliver a baby on the Medicaid programs across this Nation. Those are the people we care about.

We want young men and women to have a good education. I am sure the superwealthy can take care of themselves. They don't need a Pell grant. They don't need more. But I will tell you that a child who, let's say, is 16, 17, ready to go to college and his father is earning a minimum wage, there is no way that family can support that kid in college. He will take out a loan and the Federal Government will rip him off with an interest rate twice what the Federal Government can borrow money for.

The test of our progress is what we do for those who have too little. That is our mantra. That is how we see a better deal for Americans. FDR was right. We will work to see that it happens in America.

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

WELCOMING FRENCH PRESIDENT
EMMANUEL MACRON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we begin this evening, I want to begin in my service as co-chair of the French Caucus to welcome Emmanuel Macron, President of France, to Washington.

South Carolina is especially appreciative of France, with our shared heritage, particularly as we are very grateful for the Marquis de Lafayette, who was so vital in the American Revolution and who actually began his service landing in Georgetown, South Carolina.

It is very significant. I have colleagues from South Carolina, North Carolina, and even Florida. We are very grateful to point out that, here in the House Chamber, is an indication of the affection the American people have for France.

There are only two portraits here in the House Chamber: President George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. So it is quite revealing that, indeed, there is great love and affection for America's first ally, and how exciting it is that he has arrived here in Washington. We are looking forward to the joint session as he speaks to Congress and the American people tomorrow morning.

TAX REFORM

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Last year, House Republicans made history by passing the first meaningful tax cuts in 32 years. The last time our Tax Code was updated, "Top Gun" was the top movie, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" first aired across the Nation, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the year at 1,895.

For context, today, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is over 24,000 points, which is an increase of nearly 8,000 points, which is a nearly 20 percent increase since the day that President Donald Trump was elected. From that day, the stock market has had a remarkable increase because of faith in his business ability, his acumen, and, I believe, the success that Republicans would have to cut taxes, cut regulations, and create jobs.

Despite how much our economy has changed, we were still operating on a tax structure designed in 1986. But last year, House and Senate Republicans came together, inspired by President Donald Trump, to make the Tax Code more fair, more simple, and less burdensome for the middle class, which then, of course, yields to the increase in the stock market, which benefits all Americans.

I am grateful that families all across America today are already seeing the direct benefits of the Tax Cuts and

Jobs Act, with the leadership of our chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, KEVIN BRADY; the extraordinary service of Speaker PAUL RYAN; our leader, KEVIN MCCARTHY; our Conference chair, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS; and also our secretary of the Conference, VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina.

The jobs have been created in such a remarkable way that African-American unemployment is at the lowest level since the Bureau of Labor Statistics started tracking it in 1972. Hispanic unemployment is the lowest it has ever been recorded. The level of unemployment for American women is at the lowest rate in over 20 years. It was reported today that 14 States also have record-low unemployment due to new jobs by reducing regulations and taxes, a positive agenda.

We are here to highlight stories from across North Carolina and South Carolina of everyday families and small-business owners getting to keep more of their own hard-earned income.

I will first yield to my good friend Congressman RALPH NORMAN, who represents the Fifth District of South Carolina. Congressman NORMAN was just elected in a special election last year, but already he has been here to make a difference on behalf of the people of South Carolina and the United States. With his background as a real estate developer, he and his wife, Elaine, have proven how to create jobs.

Congressman RALPH NORMAN.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is working. It is working in South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, and it is working across the country. It is working for individuals and families who are seeing more money in their paychecks each month, and it is working for the companies that are investing the savings from tax reform into their employees.

Over the past few weeks, I have spoken with and visited the businesses of South Carolina that are putting these savings right back into the local communities. Early this month, LPL Financial announced that they will be investing these savings into their employees by increasing its 401(k) match to 75 percent and reducing the time for new hires to qualify for this match by 6 months.

As Congressman WILSON said, this personally touches 2,000 constituents in the Fifth District of South Carolina. That is 2,000 more families that now have a greater opportunity to save and see the light of a brighter future ahead.

Mr. Speaker, just today, I visited a UPS store in Gaffney, South Carolina. Because of tax reform, UPS has announced over \$12 billion in investments and an increase in pension funding.

During my UPS visit, I put on a uniform and assisted a delivery driver during a ride-along. I heard directly from the hardworking employees about how this news will impact them and all of their loved ones.

I don't think I speak just for myself when I say that we want jobs to come and stay in America. We want businesses to expand and to hire people in our communities. By reducing tax rates and simplifying the Tax Code, we are allowing companies to make these investments in their employees, in their communities, and in growing their businesses.

I look forward to continued opportunities to learn, see, and talk about the success of this tax reform. We promised fairer taxes, higher wages, and more jobs. As Congressman WILSON says, we have delivered.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his citation about UPS. I have had the same honor to put on the brown uniform to deliver packages. I found out something: the UPS employees—also FedEx, DHL, and others—are remarkable people delivering American-made products to the American people. What wonderful companies these are, and what wonderful employees they are.

Now I would like to go over some of the specific positive changes to our Tax Code that occurred under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

An average middle class family in South Carolina will save \$2,311 thanks to the tax cuts.

The child tax credit was doubled. I want to give a lot of credit because the reason it was doubled was the great work of our U.S. Senator TIM SCOTT, working with Ivanka Trump Kushner. This was their effort to work to make this child friendly, family friendly, looking out particularly for persons who are single-parent households. The child tax credit was doubled, from \$1,000 to \$2,000, making it easier for single mothers and new families to provide for their children.

The bill also removed the mandate that required you to buy healthcare or pay a penalty. So now people aren't penalized by the government for not being able to afford healthcare and health insurance.

The standard deduction doubled to \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly. This makes it simpler for couples to file their taxes because they will use the standard deduction and won't have to itemize their return.

Corporations that employ people create jobs. Their tax cuts dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Time and time again, I have heard from businessowners who plan to use their extra income to reinvest in the company, create jobs, provide bonuses, and raise wages. When taxes are low, businesses thrive and jobs are created in the Reagan tradition.

I am grateful for the leadership of Speaker PAUL RYAN, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman BRADY, and I appreciate the opportunity of working with them, in addition to President Donald Trump, for delivering meaningful tax relief to the American people. They deserve it.

Local success of the law was first heralded in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, the central part of South Carolina, by Lou and Bill Kennedy of Nephron Pharmaceuticals in Cayce, announcing 125 new jobs and a 5 percent pay increase. They said that they made this decision as a direct result of the tax bill.

In fact, I am really grateful that Lou put together a barbecue where I was present with Governor Henry McMaster and Attorney General Alan Wilson. She made the announcement right there at the barbecue to the extraordinary employees of Nephron Pharmaceuticals. They may have been the first; they were certainly not the last. I was so grateful.

I was going through Walgreen's to pick up some pictures that I was having developed and I ran into Bill Mooneyhan. Bill is the president of the local Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce. He announced: Hey, Joe, because of the tax savings, our business, our auto repair shop, is going to add a new bay and create new jobs.

I said: Hey, Bill, because you announced this to me, you have just volunteered for a press conference, which I am really grateful that we were able to have with the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, led by Ben Homeyer in South Carolina.

□ 2015

NFIB is the largest small business organization in America, and it is bottom's up. The leadership really follows the directions of their local members. So all of us truly appreciate NFIB.

In February, I visited with Norman Dunagan, owner of Whiskey Alley restaurant and Dumpster Depot, which is a recycling facility in Aiken, South Carolina. I took this opportunity to congratulate him on his expansion resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He opened a third business last year due to the confidence in President Donald Trump and the House Republican leadership. All three of his small businesses are thriving and providing much-needed new jobs.

That day I also met with Clancy Cipkala, president and CEO of Solara Hospitality of West Columbia. Solara Hospitality is providing bonuses for their hotel hourly associates due to the tax cuts passed by the Republicans. In Orangeburg, South Carolina, South State Bank provided a \$1,000 bonus to their employees. In a rural area like Orangeburg, a \$1,000 bonus can make a huge difference for families. It can provide an opportunity for families to buy extra school supplies, pay down debt, make an investment in the future, start or add to an emergency fund, or take a much-needed family vacation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished congressman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), who represents the beautiful Ninth District of North Carolina, which includes substantially the extraordinary city of Charlotte, which is such a center for job creation of the Carolinas.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and for providing this opportunity tonight for us to highlight the significance and the importance of this tax bill for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, when I lived in Washington, D.C., in 1980, it came out of the malaise of an economy that wasn't growing. No jobs, no opportunity. And Ronald Reagan had a vision for a different America, and I worked hard on his campaign. He changed the whole structure of our Tax Code and reduced the regulations that moved this economy forward. Unprecedented growth in jobs. Eighteen million jobs came out of that economy.

And that is what this vision of President Trump and this Congress is about today. Who would have thought a year ago—just a year ago—that America would be experiencing what it is today: companies like Apple reinvesting \$350 billion; ExxonMobil, \$50 billion. You have unemployment that has plummeted to a 49-year low. U.S. manufacturing is expanding at the fastest rate in 14 years. Consumer confidence is at a 17-year high. Wages are up. Opportunities are up.

I had a gentleman come to me just this last week who owns two restaurants in Charlotte. He said: Thank you for your tax cut. I am now going to expand and build another restaurant out at the lake, and I can do that because I have got the capital to go reinvest.

You know, we have constrained this economy and the American people by these burdensome tax rates that are not competitive. Companies have been going to the rest of the world—Ireland, U.K., Germany—and leaving America because we weren't competitive with our Tax Code. Now they are coming back. Now companies in America are expanding.

You take just an individual. I had a lady at a gas station the other day. I was getting my gas, and she was pumping her gas. She looked at me, and she said: Are you Congressman PITTENGER? I said: Yes, ma'am. She said: Thank you. I am a single mom. I have got that little baby in the back seat, and what you have done for me is give me another \$150 a month, and I really can't tell you how much I appreciate what you are doing.

Eighty-two percent of American people are going to get a pay raise. They are getting it right now. And that is the difference. The proof is in the paycheck. Americans know that. Regardless of what the left says, the media says, or anyone else, the reality is jobs are expanding, paychecks are going up, people are getting bonuses.

In Charlotte alone, we have Bank of America giving out bonuses; we have Charlotte Pipe and Foundry, SteelFab, American Airlines, so many. Five hundred companies in this country have given out bonuses to their folks, and probably so many more we don't know about.

So I want to commend Chairman WILSON for his leadership. I thank him for making sure that the American people know what is yet to come. We have just scratched the surface on the opportunity and the growth and the jobs that will be there for the American people.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the points he makes of where people can look at their paycheck and see they are keeping more of their own money. This is not from the government. This is their own money. How important this is, and how it enables families to have a better life. And for the young people of our country, how positive this is. I thank the gentleman for reiterating that point.

The Business Roundtable, an association of America's largest employers, is reporting that tax reform has already produced wage increases, bonuses, increased matches for retirement savings, lower prices for consumers, investment in facilities, and tens of thousands of new American jobs as a direct result of tax reform.

As I indicated, we have the lowest unemployment among African Americans ever. We have the lowest unemployment among Hispanics since it has ever been determined. It is so exciting. Fourteen States have the lowest level of unemployment in recorded history. Among women, we have the lowest level of unemployment in 20 years. Everybody benefits from the tax cuts. This is so positive.

The Business Roundtable members alone have provided over \$545 million in bonuses to their employees, with bonuses, wage increases, and a range of other employee benefits to 1.6 million workers, along with \$1.2 billion in charitable contributions. According to the Tax Foundation, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will significantly lower marginal tax rates and the cost of capital, which would lead to a 1.7 percent increase in the gross domestic product over the long term, 1.5 percent higher wages, and an additional 339,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

They also say it will spur an additional \$1 trillion in Federal revenue from economic growth, with approximately \$600 billion coming from the bill's permanent provisions and approximately \$400 billion from the bill's temporary provisions over the budget window.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the congresswoman from the Fifth District of North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). Congresswoman FOXX is secretary of the Republican Conference, she is a remarkably determined former community college president, and she also is very much appreciated as the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Then she is particularly fortunate; she lives and has a beautiful home in Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, some of the most beautiful mountains in the world of western North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WILSON for leading the Special Order on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I will agree with him; the Lord has blessed me with living in one of the most beautiful places in the world, the Fifth District of North Carolina. I am very, very grateful for it.

Last week, tax day was, for once, an occasion to celebrate because this was the last time Americans filed under the broken 32-year-old Tax Code. Next tax season, they will file under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by this Congress last December.

Across the Fifth District of North Carolina, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has already relieved North Carolinians who are cashing bigger paychecks and benefiting from the country's lowest unemployment rate since 2000. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, North Carolina added 9,000 jobs this February alone. And thanks to lower rates for individuals and small businesses under the new code, North Carolinians are keeping more of their hard-earned money. And as Congressman WILSON points out, it is their money, not the government's money.

This year, married couples in the Fifth District who take the new standard deduction could receive a tax cut to the tune of \$1,834. For the over 52,000 taxpayers of the Fifth District who have small business income, these tax savings are not crumbs, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle falsely assert. A restaurant owner in Mount Airy recently told me that allowing immediate capital expensing under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act empowered her to purchase a new \$20,000 piece of equipment for her business.

You spoke of the Business Roundtable. The Business Roundtable reports that 68 percent of business leaders similarly expect their capital spending in the next 6 months to be at its highest in 15 years. This increased purchasing power for the backbone of our economy is evidence that progrowth tax cuts work.

Continued growth is also expected by the Congressional Budget Office. The CBO estimates, for every one-tenth percent increase in GDP, nearly \$270 billion is added to revenue over 10 years. After years of malaise under the Obama administration, even modest increases in GDP growth caused by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will substantially contribute to a leveling off of the deficit. And for the first time since 2008, the CBO's budget and economic outlook revised its upward economic potential for 2018. Under current conditions, it notes that 3.5 percent growth is possible.

In further good news, Fifth District businesses share this optimism and are investing more in their employees and communities. Just last week, as part of its initiative to invest in community health with its tax savings, BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina gave \$1 million to Winston-Salem State University's nursing school. North Caro-

lina is projected to have the second largest nurse shortage in the Nation. This investment will develop the Fifth District's medical workforce and increase access to high-quality healthcare, especially in rural areas.

This is just one of the many examples that illustrates how philanthropy has fostered and communities are developed when the government scales back.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that House Republicans kept our promise to bring about more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for hardworking Americans; but I am more proud of the hardworking men and women in the Fifth District who are seizing the opportunities unleashed by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to create wealth and serve their communities.

Again, I thank Congressman WILSON for his leadership on this Special Order and for allowing us to correct the record that has been distorted about this bill and bring to the American people the facts about this wonderful Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX for her comments. And I thank her, as an educator, for educating the American people and bringing to the attention of the American people the real facts of the benefits of the tax cuts.

Congress today appreciates that Americans should keep their hard-earned tax dollars, and it is shocking to hear the other side of the aisle say that they would repeal the tax cuts if they get a majority in the House come November, resulting in tax increases on American families, destroying jobs. Sadly, I suspect a lot of families and businesses being highlighted today will be shocked—but maybe not so shocked—to hear that Democrats are campaigning on raising taxes, destroying jobs.

I sincerely hope that Americans across the country know that Republicans will continue to do all that we can to our ability to increase take-home pay to families, reduce the tax burdens on seniors, and create more efficient and effective government that works for you and provides opportunities for the young people of America.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

REFORMING U.S. CANNABIS POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening to emphasize the importance of reforming our Nation's policies concerning cannabis. This issue has grown to be increasingly bipartisan over the years, yet some in this administration have largely ignored the rising public support for legal, State-regulated cannabis.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ), a distinguished colleague from the panhandle.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Sunshine State of Florida for yielding, and I am so grateful that we have been able to find some areas of common ground in this Congress on the issue of cannabis reform.

I am very proud, Mr. Speaker, to announce that, in the coming days, I will be joining the Judiciary chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), in introducing legislation that enjoys support from across the ideological spectrum, and it will do several important things:

First, it will increase the number of people who are growing medical-grade cannabis for research purposes.

Second, it will end the gag rule at the VA that precludes physicians from being able to consult and speak with their patients about the laws in their particular States.

Third, it will create a safe harbor so that some of the finest medical institutions and universities in this great country will be able to research and partner with private sector entities to determine the potential that medical cannabis can have to improve people's quality of life.

And finally, this legislation will end the prohibition from having commercial, for-profit entities working in concert, in collaboration with some of those very universities and medical institutions.

So my hope is that by focussing first on the issues that bring us together, we will be able to advance legislation to democratize medical cannabis research, and that, ultimately, can unlock cures and unlock potential for a generation of Americans that shouldn't be lied to by their government about the potential health benefits of cannabis.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership, his honesty, and his sincerity on this issue, and I am proud to say that I have cosponsored this legislation.

Now I will yield to one of the original cosponsors of Mr. GAETZ's legislation and one of the great leaders in this institution on this issue for many years, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who has been educating colleagues and the American public on

cannabis. Tonight, I am pleased to be joined by him here on the floor and to yield to him.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida's courtesy in permitting me to join him on this Special Order this evening. I appreciate the partnership that we have had on the Ways and Means committee and dealing with these issues publicly.

It is true, I cosponsored the legislation that our aforementioned friend, Mr. GAETZ, referenced. I have been cosponsoring and introducing legislation like this for years. In fact, my Veterans Access Amendment actually passed both the House and the Senate last Congress, only to fall victim behind the scenes of, I think, misguided action on the part of leadership.

I am pleased that we have been able to retain the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment that protects State legal medical marijuana, and I look forward to working with my colleague, as I know he wants to extend those protections to all State legal efforts.

I want to say, as somebody who has spent a lot of time moving around the country working on these State campaigns, working with the industry, working with advocates, that I appreciate Mr. CURBELO's advocacy, that he is moving out of his district being involved with this conversation nationally and looking for opportunities to strengthen the position on the floor of the House.

We are in a situation now, Mr. Speaker, where we have virtually every Democrat who now supports these simple, commonsense reforms, and, in no small measure due to my friend from Florida's persuasive efforts, there are several dozen Republicans, and that number is sure to grow either before or after the next election.

This is an issue that we have watched slowly take shape. I was in the Oregon Legislature when we were the first State to decriminalize back in the 1970s, but there was sort of a hiatus for about 20 years.

There was Richard Nixon's ill-advised and, I think, unfortunate and unfair war on drugs, the Schedule I categorization of marijuana. If we were doing it over again, probably it wouldn't be scheduled at all, but tobacco would be Schedule I because it is deadly and addictive.

In the course of the last 6 years, we have watched what has happened at the State level accelerate. It has been medical marijuana since 1996. But starting in 2012 with Colorado, Washington, and, more recently, we had initiatives in Oregon, in Alaska, in the District of Columbia, we had nine States vote in 2016, and eight of them approved reforms.

I am excited to watch this accelerated progress. In fact, I think what we have seen over the last 6 weeks is unprecedented. We are watching people in both parties be able to identify things they can get behind and move forward.

We see survey research demonstrating that this is no longer a highly divisive partisan issue.

The majority of Americans support legalizing adult use. Increasingly, there is evidence that a majority of Trump voters support adult use. Medical marijuana is like the Fourth of July. It is almost universally accepted, and I think the gentleman's district, in voting on medical marijuana in 2016 in Florida, was overwhelmingly supported.

So now is the time for us to move forward. We have a bipartisan Cannabis Caucus, and I appreciate the gentleman participating in leading this. We have almost three dozen pieces of legislation. We had, this last week, a couple of things that I think were rather noteworthy.

The former Speaker of the House, John Boehner, who opposed our efforts for years, has now evolved on this issue, and he now has actually joined the advisory board of a firm in Massachusetts. Both of us are familiar with them, looking at the leadership in the industry.

We have watched Donald Trump, in the last 10 days, sort of clarify what he said on the campaign trail in 2016, that the States ought to be free to do this. He is reaffirming that and undercutting the attempt by his Attorney General Sessions to cast a pall over the State legal efforts.

We have watched the minority leader in the Senate, Mr. SCHUMER, come out supporting comprehensive legislation. I would note, for the record, it was very similar to what my colleague in the Senate, on the Senate Finance Committee, RON WYDEN and I introduced last year in a comprehensive fashion, but that is great. The more, the merrier.

What we want to do this Congress is to be able to do some simple things. The legislation that we have worked on together to allow State legal marijuana enterprises to get rid of the pernicious 280E so they can deduct their business expenses, I appreciate the gentleman's leadership and focus on that.

We ought to eliminate the restrictions that prevent robust medical research on cannabis. The Federal Government interferes with the research. There is no longer any reason for that.

And in working on this, literally, for decades, I have never met a single human being who thinks there is anything to be served by forcing State legal marijuana enterprises to be conducted on an all-cash basis.

These are things that we can change, regardless of whether or not people favor full legalization. These are simple, commonsense steps that have bipartisan support, and I look forward to working with the gentleman on that and then as we take this to the people.

We will be voting on it in Michigan, probably in Missouri. Looks like there will be a ballot measure in Utah. Other States are looking. I think the momentum is building.

I can't say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with the gentleman on these issues. I look forward to continuing that partnership so these simple, commonsense provisions that are actually supported by a majority of the people in the House and the Senate are allowed to be voted on.

I hope that he can work his persuasive ways with the Republican leadership to eliminate those roadblocks and allow the House to work its will. America will be better for it. Americans will be freer, and there will be economic opportunity, health opportunities, and less destruction of lives with ill-conceived efforts to criminalize behavior of otherwise law-abiding adults.

I thank the gentleman for his sponsorship of this conversation this evening, permitting me to be a part of it, and our partnership. I look forward to accelerating those efforts in the months ahead so that we can mark significant progress yet in this Congress, and next Congress, get it all taken care of.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I truly admire and appreciate my colleague. He is a man of principle, but he is also someone who is always at the table trying to find common ground, trying to see how this institution can work better, how we can all work together for commonsense solutions, for what, in this case, so many Americans are asking of this institution: to allow each State to come up with its own laws, its own regulations for this industry.

So I thank my colleague very much for spending a little time with us here this evening and also for all of his work over many years, because, as he said, many in this institution are coming around on both sides of the aisle. But it is Mr. BLUMENAUER who, for a long time, led these efforts, and it was always an issue of consensus, the way it is today. So thank you very much to my distinguished colleague.

Mr. Speaker, nine States and the District of Columbia have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, and medical marijuana is legal in an additional 29 States, including my home State of Florida. Over 70 percent of Florida voters supported legalizing the use of medical marijuana in the 2016 elections, including 80.3 percent and 68.3 percent in the two counties I represent, Monroe and Miami-Dade, respectively.

As a matter of fact, the President was in Monroe County Thursday, and many people greeted him in the streets. Many of those were supporters, considering 80 percent support in that district of this issue.

On Friday of last week, a report published by the Florida Department of Health indicated the State's medical marijuana patient registry has risen to 100,576 people, a dramatic increase from the 23,350 patients registered in June of 2017. This milestone also happens to coincide with the opening of Miami Beach's first medical marijuana dispensary, Surterra Wellness.

Despite overwhelming support from the public and medical community, however, legitimate businesses such as Surtterra face financial and legal uncertainty because of a witch hunt opened up by Attorney General Sessions last year. To make matters worse, he is now hamstringing scientific research to analyze the medical applications of cannabis.

I, along with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, have taken a multipronged approach to improving our country's irresponsible and ill-advised laws on cannabis. Congressman BLUMENAUER and I are addressing the industry's significantly disproportionate tax burden through the Small Business Tax Equity Act, legislation which provides tax parity to marijuana businesses operating in compliance with State law.

I am also working with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT) to urge the Department of Justice to order the Drug Enforcement Administration to immediately approve additional registrations for the bulk manufacture of cannabis for exclusively federally-approved research purposes.

Compliant manufacturers are attempting to provide State and Federal Governments and medical professionals with fact-based research on cannabis' effects, both adverse and therapeutic, but their applications to do so aren't being assessed. It is difficult for me to comprehend the logic behind blocking scientific research to analyze the medical applications of cannabis because I believe it is critical for policymakers to possess objective data on the effectiveness of cannabis as an alternative treatment for anxiety, depression, pain, psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, opioid addiction, and epilepsy. We owe it to American patients to open up the field of research on this.

Now, the only logical explanation I can think of is that the Attorney General knows the facts of this field of research won't support his policies or the witch hunt he and his Department have been conducting on legal State-regulated operators across the country.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses claimed nearly 68,000 lives throughout the United States in 2017 alone, with over 45,000 of those as a result of opioids, legal drugs.

An aptly timed article was published this morning by CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Sanjay Gupta in which he details the results of his investigation into the benefits of cannabis over the course of a 5-year study.

□ 2045

Though admittedly skeptical at first, after dedicating countless hours with both patients and scientists scattered throughout the globe, Dr. Gupta began to view the plant in a different light: as a source for healing instead of a gateway for substance abuse.

At the conclusion of Dr. Gupta's in-depth examination, he came to the de-

duction that "not only can cannabis work for a variety of conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and pain; sometimes, it is the only thing that works." Referenced in this article is an analysis conducted by researchers from the RAND Corporation, and supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which showed an approximated 20 percent decline in opioid overdose deaths between 1999 and 2010 in States with legalized medical marijuana and functioning dispensaries.

Mr. Speaker, this analysis is similar to countless others I have heard that prove cannabis can quell both the disease of addiction and the pains associated with it. Now, some may view this investigation and others as if they are anecdotal, and to them I say, "Let's find out." Let's stop hamstringing Federal research of the issue and let's let the facts speak for themselves.

As I have said before in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, the best ally that illegal operators like drug cartels and drug traffickers—who do not pay taxes, who target children, who have no safety standards for their products—the best ally they have are the policies that the Attorney General has embraced. Because by continuing to hamstring Federal research, over tax, and stoke uncertainty, legally operating businesses that are State regulated, that pay taxes, that are helping patients who are suffering, can no longer compete. And when these businesses can no longer compete, people turn to the black market.

So inadvertently, I hope, the Attorney General is actually doing a great favor to the criminals operating outside the law by punishing law-abiding Americans trying to control the substance and make it safer.

So I am here today to, once again, call upon this administration to not just allow, but encourage, meaningful reform on our Nation's cannabis policies. On this issue, we have an opportunity to reinforce the 10th Amendment and ensure the Federal Government does not overstep its boundaries and supersede the will of the States. On this issue, we have an opportunity to afford businesses selling legal products the chance to contribute to our economy and create jobs, while simultaneously crippling the criminal enterprises empowered by and prospering under the Attorney General's policies. And perhaps most importantly, we have an opportunity to change—and possibly even save—the lives of Americans suffering from opioid addiction and other diseases and conditions.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of colleagues in this Chamber who say people should be able to buy whatever health insurance or get whatever kind of health coverage they want, and the government should interfere as little as possible, and I agree. But on this issue, there seems to be a hypocrisy, and many colleagues want to impose a Federal view or a Federal perspective

on States, on the people of States like Florida, who have already decided explicitly and clearly and overwhelmingly.

So I thank my colleagues who joined me here tonight, and I truly look forward to the day where this institution can legislate in a way that respects the people of Florida, respects the people of Oregon, respects the people of Colorado, and American citizens in 36 States in the union, who have spoken loud and clear.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2150

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3144, PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 30, 2018, THROUGH MAY 4, 2018

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-650) on the resolution (H. Res. 839) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3144) to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from April 30, 2018, through May 4, 2018, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 18 AND FEB. 25, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. George Holding	2/18	2/24	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,710.00				3,680.00
Hon. French Hill	2/21	2/25	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,118.00				3,088.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	2/20	2/25	United Kingdom		1,970.00		2,956.00				4,926.00
Hon. Jim Costa	2/21	2/22	United Kingdom		655.00		5,047.00				5,702.00
Hon. David Rouzer	2/20	2/24	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,710.00				3,680.00
Hon. Robert Aderholt	2/20	2/25	United Kingdom		1,970.00		5,010.00				6,980.00
Hon. Kenny Marchant	2/19	2/25	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,532.00				3,502.00
Hon. Richard Hudson	2/21	2/25	United Kingdom		655.00		4,551.00				5,206.00
Katie Smith	2/20	2/24	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,169.00				3,139.00
Chad Gore	2/21	2/24	United Kingdom		1,970.00		1,169.00				3,139.00
Committee total					17,070.00		27,682.00				44,752.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GEORGE HOLDING, Apr. 12, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		8,404.61		1,149.30		10,163.91
Hon. Blake Farenthold	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		7,955.41		1,149.30		9,714.71
Hon. Hank Johnson	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		8,404.61		1,149.30		10,163.91
Hon. Luis Gutiérrez	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		8,404.61		1,149.30		10,163.91
Hon. Pramila Jayapal	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		8,404.61		1,149.30		10,163.91
Shelley Husband	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		(³)		1,149.30		1,759.30
Stephanie Gaddis	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		(³)		1,149.30		1,759.30
John Manning	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		(³)		1,149.30		1,759.30
Monalisa Dugue	2/16	2/26	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, & Laos.		610.00		(³)		1,149.30		1,759.30
Committee total					5,490.00		41,573.85		10,343.70		57,407.55

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Apr. 6, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 18, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KEVIN BRADY, Vice Chairman, Apr. 5, 2018.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

4679. Under clause 2 of rule XIV, a letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's FY 2016 and 2017 No FEAR Act reports, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242), was taken from the Speak-

er's table, referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5005. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special

resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System (Rept. 115-644). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5236. A bill to expand opportunities available to employee-owned business concerns through Small Business Administration loan programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-645).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4267. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to change certain requirements relating to the capital structure of business development companies, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-646). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4464. A bill to repeal the rule issued by the National Credit Union Administration titled "Risk-Based Capital" (Rept. 115-647). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4560. A bill to suspend contributions by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to the Housing Trust Fund during any period that the full required dividend payments under the Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements for such enterprises are not made, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-648). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2809. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-649). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 839. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3144) to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from April 30, 2018, through May 4, 2018 (Rept. 115-650). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. MCCAUL:

H.R. 5589. A bill to consolidate certain small diplomatic and consular posts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5590. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for an action plan on recommendations for changes under Medicare and Medicaid to prevent opioids addictions and enhance access to medication-assisted treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 5591. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a prescription drug monitoring program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 5592. A bill to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 5593. A bill to render certain military spouses eligible for adjustment of status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 5594. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the eligibility of certain community mental health centers to register for purposes of the practice of telemedicine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa):

H.R. 5595. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to update the Federal charter for Future Farmers of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5596. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program of awarding grants to owners or operators of water systems to increase resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region of the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5597. A bill to provide for the expansion of the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan, Washington County, Utah; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 5598. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require certain disproportionate share hospital covered entities under the 340B drug discount program to submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services reports on low-income utilization rates of outpatient hospital services furnished by such entities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5599. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expand the conditional approval pathway for more animal drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 5600. A bill to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Río San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 5601. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the renovation, repair, or expansion needs of certain elementary schools and secondary schools that educate dependants of active duty military personnel; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period

to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 5602. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish pass-through lease arrangements for uninhabitable dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5603. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to waive certain Medicare telehealth requirements in the case of certain treatment of an opioid use disorder or co-occurring mental health disorder; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCEACHIN:

H.R. 5604. A bill to prohibit any reduction, consolidation, or termination of offices and activities related to science research within the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5605. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an opioid use disorder treatment demonstration program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5606. A bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SIREN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5607. A bill to provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of handguns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5608. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VELA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GENE GREEN

- H.R. 1734: Mr. RUSH, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1783: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1813: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1828: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1847: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1861: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. KIHUEN.
H.R. 1870: Mr. KIHUEN.
H.R. 1876: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1957: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2008: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 2012: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2234: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 2307: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2315: Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 2345: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2439: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 2475: Mr. O'ROURKE and Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 2550: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2556: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2561: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 2575: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2599: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2619: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2644: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2809: Mr. MCCARTHY and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 2871: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 2908: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 2913: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 2957: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 2966: Mr. COHEN and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2976: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 3023: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 3030: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 3032: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3224: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3356: Mr. UPTON, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mrs. HANDEL.
H.R. 3378: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3444: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3545: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 3592: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3605: Mr. NORMAN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3632: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 3635: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. COOK.
H.R. 3637: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3666: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3684: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3773: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3790: Mr. STEWART, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 3798: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3842: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3861: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3867: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3881: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3887: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 3919: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3938: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3941: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3956: Mr. HARPER and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3962: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4001: Mr. VELA and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4006: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4072: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4143: Mr. REED.
H.R. 4245: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4273: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 4391: Mr. WELCH and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 4410: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 4444: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 4525: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4548: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 4668: Ms. ROSEN.
H.R. 4681: Mr. LANCE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. ROSEN.
H.R. 4682: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 4706: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4724: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4815: Mr. KIHUEN.
H.R. 4841: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 4876: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 4889: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4902: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4919: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 4941: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 4957: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4962: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 4985: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 5011: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. KIHUEN.
H.R. 5034: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5040: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 5061: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 5096: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5121: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5124: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WALZ, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 5132: Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. THORNBERY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 5137: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5160: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5171: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5199: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 5215: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 5264: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5291: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5292: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5343: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 5345: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 5353: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 5358: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5365: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 5380: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 5383: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5385: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 5396: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5406: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 5412: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 5413: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 5417: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5422: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 5447: Mr. HURD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 5459: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 5467: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 5476: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 5483: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 5507: Mr. BOST, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DEFALZIO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5517: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 5523: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 5524: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5536: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 5537: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 5547: Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 5552: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 5561: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 5562: Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 5575: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5576: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 5582: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.J. Res. 31: Mr. DELANEY.
H. Con. Res. 8: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H. Con. Res. 111: Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. FERGUSON.
H. Res. 69: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H. Res. 421: Mr. ROSKAM.
H. Res. 763: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H. Res. 774: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida.
H. Res. 826: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 835: Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WALKER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. MEADOWS.
H. Res. 837: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. SAM JOHNSTON of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative BILL SHUSTER, or a designee, to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 5310: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 774: Mr. ROHRBACHER.
H. Res. 817: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, marvelous is Your Name. We celebrate the works of Your hands: the sky and sea, the songs of birds, the hues of flowers, and the precision of the planets.

Bless the people of our beloved Republic. Amid all differences, may they be one in spirit, purpose, and faith.

Lord, continue to sustain our Senators. Keep them living, laboring, and loving for the good of all. Make them instruments of Your will for the healing of our Nation and world. Keep them conscious of Your presence and direct their thinking, speaking, and doing.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Foreign Relations Committee finished consideration of Mike Pompeo's nomination to serve as our Nation's 70th Secretary of State. They reported his nomination to the full Senate with a favorable recommendation. Later this week, we will take

their advice, and we will vote to confirm him.

We will be lucky to have this capable public servant on the job. We know Mike Pompeo is up to the task. After all, we confirmed him with a comfortable and bipartisan majority to lead the CIA. In one of the most sensitive positions in our government, the quality of his leadership was directly linked to the security of the American people.

West Point valedictorian, Harvard Law, U.S. Army officer, a successful businessman, and three-term Congressman serving on the House Intelligence Committee—this is the resume that Mike Pompeo brought to the top job at the CIA with the support of a bipartisan supermajority of the Senate, and, by all accounts, his tenure there has been a big success. The caliber of Mike's leadership and the quality of his counsel have won him the respect of our National Clandestine Service and the confidence of the President.

Just recently, Director Pompeo undertook sensitive conversations with representatives of North Korea to lay the groundwork for efforts aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

As he steps into this new mission as Secretary of State, he clearly enjoys the confidence of the President, and throughout his testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, he demonstrated expertise and professionalism.

Fortunately, even as so many of President Trump's well-qualified nominees are obstructed and delayed without reason, a bipartisan majority of Senators have already signaled their intention to vote to confirm Mike Pompeo. We have the nominee, we have the votes, and we will confirm our next Secretary of State this week.

Then, I hope we can build on this bipartisan momentum and process more of the President's qualified nominees.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, our Nation's opioid epidemic continues to plague communities and families in my home State of Kentucky and across the Nation. Here in Congress, we are doing our best to support the healthcare and law enforcement professionals who are battling it every single day.

Last week, I introduced the Protecting Moms and Infants Act, a bipartisan effort to confront the heartbreaking cases of prenatal and infant opioid addiction. It builds on my 2015 bill, the Protecting Our Infants Act, and Congress's other recent progress on this issue.

In recent years, Congress has bolstered prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act, and the recent government funding bill dedicated a record level of resources to saving lives from heroin and prescription drug abuse.

But much more work remains. So today I am proud to announce legislation to address this crisis' devastating effects on the American worker and the American workforce.

Stable employment is not just a path to financial security for workers and families. Earning a paycheck from a job is also linked to personal happiness and even physical health. We see firsthand in Kentucky the need for the structure and support that come with a job to help keep former addicts from falling back into the cycle of addiction. According to the CEO of a treatment facility in Louisville, "stable housing and employment are vitally tied to an individual's recovery." But, unfortunately, in the very communities where employment could do so much, the opioid crisis itself is making it harder to attain.

I frequently hear Kentucky employers cite substance abuse as a major hurdle to finding and hiring suitable

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S2359

applicants. One study traced roughly 25 percent of the decline in workforce participation between 1999 and 2015 to the opioid crisis. That amounts to about 1 million missing workers. It is no wonder that the Trump administration reports that the epidemic cost our economy a half trillion dollars in 2015 alone.

The economic cost pales in comparison to the human cost that addiction and joblessness inflict. The Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry Act, or CAREER Act, would bring targeted relief to the States most devastated by substance abuse. This State-based pilot program would encourage local businesses and treatment groups to form partnerships to help those in recovery find and maintain employment.

The legislation expands housing block grants to encourage more transitional housing options for recovering addicts until they secure permanent arrangements. It gives States more flexibility to spend Federal career services and training funds to support specific initiatives dedicated to helping individuals transition from treatment to the workforce. In short, this bill does exactly what the experts tell us needs to be done on this front.

This morning, Chairman ALEXANDER and the HELP Committee are reviewing comprehensive opioid legislation. I commend the chairman for his diligent efforts on this subject. It is my hope that the committee will choose to include some of the proposals in the Protecting Moms and Infants Act and the CAREER Act in the larger package that they are developing.

This epidemic requires our continued attention. On behalf of those in Kentucky and all over the country who are struggling, we are determined to keep doing our part.

TAX REFORM

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Madam President, on one final matter, the passage of Republicans' historic tax reform last December was just the latest illustration of the diverging paths Republicans and Democrats envision for our economy.

For the better part of the last decade, our Democratic colleagues' ideas ran their course. We were promised that they would help us recover from the financial crisis. But it wasn't a recovery for all Americans. In fact, the path put forward by our Democratic colleagues had two distinct lanes. The express lane was for major cities like New York and San Francisco. Urban areas with more than 1 million residents captured 90 percent of the Nation's population growth and nearly 75 percent of new jobs created between 2010 and 2016. Seventy-five percent of new jobs created between 2010 and 2016 went to these large urban areas.

Those select communities actually made up some ground, but working

families and job creators in America's smaller cities, towns, and rural communities were stuck in the slow lane. There, job opportunities dried up as investment dollars hit the road. There, Americans learned what it feels like when Washington, DC, leaves you behind. But, fortunately, these communities are among the first to feel the benefits of the new Republican approach.

The historic tax relief we passed last year cut taxes for American families and gave employers more flexibility to expand, hire, and give their workers bonuses, raises, and new benefits.

As my colleague Senator YOUNG reports, the results in Indiana are adding up. He heard from a Hoosier in Cedar Lake who is expanding his family milk-hauling business, and a Kokomo small business owner who is now hiring more workers. I recently read that over in Ellettsville, one family has found an additional \$200 in their monthly paychecks—enough to cover a week's worth of groceries.

I don't think my colleagues across the aisle intended to make life more difficult for middle-class families across the country. It is just that these leftwing policies make it harder, not easier, for American workers and job creators to actually get ahead. But when my Democratic friends had the chance to join us and deliver historic tax relief to American families, they stood firm and tried to block tax relief on a party-line basis. One of Indiana's own Senators tried to block all that good Indiana news from happening.

I am proud that Republicans overcame that obstruction and got tax reform accomplished for all Americans.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, after some drama and a rare act of civility on the part of Senator COONS, for which I applaud him, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nomination of Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State. This is despite Chairman CORKER repeatedly pointing out how qualified for this appointment Director Pompeo actually is, but, apparently, it fell on deaf ears.

This sort of treatment is unprecedented, in my memory certainly, for a Secretary of State. Director Pompeo was, in fact, first in his class at West Point and led the Harvard Law Review. He served his country in the military and served the people of Kansas in Congress, not to mention the fact that Mike Pompeo already serves in one of the most sensitive and important positions in the Trump administration as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I spoke yesterday about the confirmations of some of the most recent Secretaries of State, not just Secretaries Clinton and Kerry. Secretary Kerry got all but three votes in the Senate, and Secretary Clinton lost only two votes in the Senate, but I also spoke of Secretary Powell and Secretary Rice. All were confirmed overwhelmingly because the Senate has always had a tradition, until now, of showing some deference to the President when confirming nominees to positions like this that have national security importance. The world needs to know that this President has confidence in this nominee, and he does. That is the key to his effectiveness in international diplomacy—knowing he has the President's ear.

Our Democratic friends once upon a time acknowledged that, in the words of the senior Senator from Delaware:

The President, regardless of what party they are from, needs, for the most part, to have the team they want to put in place. They have been elected to lead. Let's give them a chance to lead.

The opposition we are seeing breaks with this longstanding tradition in a shameful and partisan way. Of course, our Democratic colleagues have been slow-walking and obstructing qualified nominees since the President was sworn in, just to hinder progress for hindering progress's sake alone. This is the kind of hyperpartisan approach to foreign policy that threatens to harm our national security because this is an important national security post. Not only should we confirm Mr. Pompeo so the President can have the support of his full Cabinet, but also so the American people can have the assurance that our national security is not being treated like a pinata that our Democratic colleagues are whacking with a stick.

The American people can see through this kind of concerted effort to prevent the President from filling Cabinet roles that deserve to be filled. In fact, that seems to be the approach: wherever, whenever, however to block President Trump from accomplishing anything he seeks on behalf of the American people, even though he was elected President of the United States.

Several editorial boards have already pointed out the importance of filling this position and have urged our Democratic colleagues to allow Director Pompeo to be confirmed expeditiously. USA Today editorial writers penned a piece saying:

Unless a nominee has clear ethical or competency failings, presidents should be accorded wide latitude to select top aides whom they trust and agree with. Pompeo passes that test and merits approval.

The Washington Post writes: “Mr. Pompeo should be deployed to Foggy Bottom in the hope that he will fulfill his promise to revive and reassert U.S. diplomacy.”

The Chicago Tribune writes: “Pompeo knows well how to work with both Congress and the president—who trusts him so much he sent him on a secret mission to Pyongyang to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un” in advance of the President’s meeting with him in a few weeks.

It doesn’t stop there. There are nearly a dozen editorial boards that say the same thing these newspapers have—that Mr. Pompeo is undoubtedly qualified and the President trusts him, and on these two points, the Senate should confirm him.

The flip-flop our Democratic colleagues are doing from last year, when 15 of them supported Mr. Pompeo’s nomination to the CIA, should be a source of embarrassment. To say that somehow the job of the Secretary of State is more important or more sensitive than that of the CIA Director—both of them are extraordinarily important. If they had the confidence in him to vote to confirm him to the CIA and are now searching for reasons to support a “no” vote for Secretary of State, it is pretty clear what is happening. Some of the most radical activists in the Democratic base are clearly getting to some of these Senators.

There is still time to put country above politics, national security over the next election, and principle over posturing. I urge all of our colleagues to give this nominee the same treatment the Senate gave Secretaries Powell, Rice, Kerry, and Clinton, and confirm Mr. Pompeo as our next Secretary of State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SENATE RULES ON NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Rules Committee will mark up Senator LANKFORD’s resolution tomorrow to change the rules on the consideration of nominees to benefit the Senate majority. Of course, the majority in the Senate can already approve of a nomination on a party-line vote for all nominees up to and including now the Supreme Court since Leader MCCONNELL elected to change those rules last year.

Why the need for further erosions to minority rights in the Senate? The Republicans argue it is because they are facing “historic” obstruction of the President’s nominees.

A few points on that: First and foremost, the truth is the Democrats have cooperated with the majority on non-controversial nominees, like career ambassadorships and civil servants, for a long time now. Before each recess, there is a long list of names that is approved. Before the last recess, the Senate had confirmed nearly as many nominations in 2018 as President Obama had confirmed in the analogous year of 2010. Let me repeat that. Before the last recess, the Senate had confirmed almost the exact same number of nominees in 2018 as President Obama had confirmed in 2010, the second year of his Presidency.

So this idea that it is historic—bunk. You can tell it is bunk because at the same time our Republicans and even the President himself, on some days, complain about obstruction, on other days, the President and the Vice President are boasting about how many judges they have filled on the bench.

This morning, President Trump said:

We put [on] a tremendous amount of [Federal] district [court] judges. We are setting records.

I say to my Republican friends and the President: You can’t have it both ways—on the one hand, historic obstruction and, on the other, a record pace of confirmations that you brag to your base about. You can’t have it both ways. It is hypocrisy.

A second point: The Republican majority has already taken brazen steps during this Congress to limit minority rights on nominations. I mentioned the leader breaking the rules on Supreme Court nominees. Let’s not forget that he broke the rules after letting Merrick Garland sit there while not allowing a nomination. It takes a lot of gall to complain about obstruction when Leader MCCONNELL opened the gates to obstruction—made obstruction his watchword—when he did what he did to Merrick Garland. He didn’t stop. The Republicans have not stopped this year. The Republicans have engaged in hardball tactics at the district and circuit court levels.

Here is what happened. Take the Republican seat that is vacant on the Seventh Circuit. Because Senator LEAHY—then-chairman—and, later,

Senators HATCH and, I believe, GRASSLEY honored the blue slip, a seat in the Seventh Circuit that belongs to Wisconsin was held open for 6 years by their refusing to approve two nominees by President Obama. Now the President has nominated a very conservative judge, Michael Brennan, who has failed to earn the recommendation of the bipartisan commission that is respected in Wisconsin and was set up by both Senators BALDWIN and JOHNSON—one a Democrat, one a Republican—to recommend Federal nominees. Yet this administration has no known concern about the real qualifications of the judges as long as they meet the hard-right checklist.

Despite the fact that Senator BALDWIN has not returned a blue slip for Mr. Brennan, Chairman GRASSLEY has moved him out of committee anyway. This is the second time Chairman GRASSLEY has ignored the blue slip tradition. The blue slip tradition was faithfully honored by Senator LEAHY when he was chairman. Our Republican colleagues have used it to an extent that, certainly, would be “historic” obstruction. For 6 years, a seat was vacant on the circuit court, and it was not the only one that had had long-term vacancies. Now, all of a sudden, because the Democrats want to discuss this, null this for a few days, Senator LANKFORD wants to change the rules. I know he only came to the Senate in 2014, but he ought to look a bit at the history before he gets into high dudgeon.

The issue of nominations has been fraught, and it is true there have been escalations on both sides. I am the first to say that. Despite the rhetoric from the majority party, the Democrats have worked in good faith this year to clear noncontroversial nominations expeditiously. When nominees require vetting, the Senate should have the tools to consider them thoroughly because, clearly, this administration is not taking the task of vetting seriously.

This is a final argument—and there are many good ones I would like to make. The Trump administration has done the worst job of vetting its nominees of any administration I can remember. It seems a slapdash process. It has had to withdraw the nominee for the Labor Department because he was not properly vetted; it has fired the Secretaries of HHS, State, and the VA; and it has faced a host of other controversies with staff and turnover. I dare say, if Mr. Pruitt had been properly vetted, he may not have been nominated given what we have found out.

Now we hear that the new nominee for the VA Secretary—the President’s personal doctor—is on hold because of some troubling allegations. How did he get through the process with all of these allegations not even having been made public? My guess—there was not proper vetting. I was not there, but it is speculative that, maybe, one day, the President, who we know acts on

impulse, had this nominee in the room—his doctor—and he said: Hey, let's put you up without any vetting.

The President is putting forward nominees without appropriate vetting. It is our job to vet, and we will not be rushed through, particularly when this administration has had such a poor record of looking at the qualifications and the problems that each nominee has brought. More than ever, with this President, it is the Senate's job to advise and consent, not to be a rubberstamp. The rule change that is being proposed by Senator LANKFORD is totally unmerited, inadvisable, and lacks any knowledge of history of the Senate.

You know, we are trying to return to some comity here. The omnibus bill was very good work among Speaker RYAN, Leader MCCONNELL, Leader PELOSI, and me. We are going to meet in a little while to talk about doing the appropriations process in regular order and going back to the days when we did that, which I know our majority leader sincerely wants to do, as do I, as does Senator SHELBY, as does Senator LEAHY. Something like this—so partisan, so unfair, and so unacknowledging of the history that has come before—doesn't help the sense of comity in the Senate.

I urge Republicans and Democrats alike on the Rules Committee to reject this terribly ill-advised proposal.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSENSTEIN

Madam President, on another matter, over the last few months, House Republicans have heaped enormous pressure on Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in a transparent attempt to bully him into providing documents that are pertinent to an ongoing investigation—something we have hardly ever seen before, something that really gets in the way of law enforcement doing its job. Representative NUNES, who has shown his partisanship repeatedly, and others have gone so far as to threaten Mr. Rosenstein with contempt of Congress and even impeachment if he doesn't hand over former FBI Comey's memos, FISA Court documents, and other information that is related to Mueller's investigation into foreign interference. Mr. Rosenstein gave them that information, which, of course, was leaked afterward to the press.

It is not Justice Department protocol or any other prosecutor's protocol to share information that is pertinent to an ongoing investigation. It just welcomes interference. That is true even with the most objective of those who get the information, and I think 95 percent of America believes Congressman NUNES is not objective. It is not hard to understand why we don't do this. Yet several House Republicans have smeared Mr. Rosenstein and have even threatened his job unless he breaks the longstanding prosecutorial guidelines which will force him to give them information they can twist into political ammunition. What Representative

NUNES and others have been doing is disgraceful, just disgraceful, and not consistent with our being a democracy, where there is the rule of law. It is more consistent with the bullying attitude that we see in nondemocratic countries.

Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein is doing his level best to honor the integrity of the Russia probe while being dragged through the mud by the President and his allies in Congress. He is a strong man. He has done an excellent job, and he is doing his best now. He is doing exactly what a Deputy Attorney General should be doing. Mr. Rosenstein deserves our respect—all parties' respect, the whole country's respect—for his efforts in being honest and transparent with Congress while maintaining the integrity of the Russia probe.

Even so, as a columnist in the Washington Post put it this morning: "It's a miserable day at the Justice Department when the deputy attorney general is forced at gunpoint"—bullying, threatening—"to turn over important evidence in a pending criminal investigation." The "bullying" and "threatening" are my parenthetical words.

It continues to be a real disgrace for House Republicans to engage in such bare-knuckle tactics in a relentless effort to deter and kick up dust around the Mueller investigation. Our fellow Republicans, the bar across the country, and the country itself—the public—should resist this kind of bullying and pressure. It is so un-American, so against the rule of law, so against how democratic republics work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the floor this morning to oppose the nomination of Stuart Kyle Duncan to serve on the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

I accept that there are differences of opinion with respect to nominees, and I accept that I will not agree on every issue with every Trump nominee. I do expect that individuals who are up for lifetime judicial appointments have to demonstrate that, above all else, above everything else, they will be guardians of the constitutional rights of the American people. If you want to be a judge in America, my view is, you ought to have to show an independence of thought and a respect for the rule of law.

I regret to say this morning, I believe this nominee has not met those important expectations. As I review Mr. Duncan's record, it seems to me he has made a career out of fighting to restrict the rights and legal protections

of the vulnerable and those who are powerless. It ought to be an immediate red flag to see how often he has aligned himself with the wrong end of some of the most high-profile cases in the last few years.

My view is that his record on civil rights alone ought to be disqualifying. Twice he has represented States—North Carolina and Texas—in their defense of voter suppression laws that were written and passed based on false claims of voter fraud. Both of those laws, in my view, were a sort of Frankenstein monster of past proposals that would have made it harder for African Americans and Latino citizens to vote. You don't have to take my word for it; both of those cases were thrown out by the courts. Fortunately, neither time was Mr. Duncan successful on appeal.

In another case, he argued before the Supreme Court that a wrongful conviction verdict ought to be thrown out. An African-American man named John Thompson spent 14 years on death row after prosecutors in New Orleans concealed evidence that would have proven his innocence. After his exoneration, this individual won a \$14 million wrongful conviction suit. Mr. Duncan, on the other hand, led the effort to have it overturned. An innocent man's life was ruined, and Mr. Duncan saw to it that he had no recompense.

He has clearly been a staunch opponent of women's reproductive rights and healthcare. He was counsel of record representing Hobby Lobby in its case against the Department of Health and Human Services in 2014. In that case, Hobby Lobby sought to throw out the legal requirement that women have no-cost access to contraception through their health insurance coverage. Mr. Duncan argued that the government has no compelling interest in guaranteeing access to contraception. To hold that view, you have to basically throw in the trash can the science showing that contraception results in lower rates of cancer and healthier pregnancies when women choose to conceive. You also have to be willing to turn a blind eye to the matter of economic fairness—that women, particularly those who are vulnerable, those of modest means, should not be taxed for their gender.

Mr. Duncan went on to author a special legal brief in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, arguing that the Supreme Court should have ignored medical evidence and allowed the State of Texas to shutter women's health clinics on trumped-up grounds.

I also think that as the Senate considers this nominee, we should look at his record on LGBTQ Americans. In 2015, when he was in private practice, this nominee served as special assistant attorney general for Louisiana. There, he authored an amicus brief on behalf of 15 States, urging the Supreme Court to reject the right to same-sex marriages nationwide. He wrote that recognizing such a right would endanger the "civil peace." It is a head-

scratcher to me how he could reach that conclusion. Whatever damage has been done to the civil peace in the last 3 years certainly has had nothing to do with same-sex marriage.

When I came to the Senate, I believe I was the first Member of this body who came out for marriage equality. Back then, I said: This is pretty simple, folks—if you don't like gay marriage, don't get one. Regrettably, this nominee not only doesn't share that view, but he wrote that recognizing the right to marriage equality would, in his view, endanger the civil peace.

He represented Gloucester County, VA, in an effort to deny a transgender student's right to use the bathroom aligned with the gender identity. He also represented rightwing lawmakers in North Carolina, defending broadly discriminatory legislation that became known as the bathroom bill.

The list of concerning episodes and disqualifying work in Mr. Duncan's career does take a fair amount of time to actually walk through. What I will just tell you is that when I look at Mr. Duncan's background, what I see is a long record of hostility toward the rights of women and minority Americans. He has consistently defended powerful special interests over the rights of those who don't have political action committees, aren't powerful, and don't have high-priced lobbyists.

As Senators consider how to vote on this nomination, I find it hard to believe that this track record of bias that I have outlined this afternoon will suddenly vanish, will just disappear on confirmation. In my judgment, this is an individual who should not serve on the bench. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in opposition to the nomination of Kyle Duncan for the U.S. Circuit Court for the Fifth Circuit.

I find his nomination troubling, but I find many of President Trump's nominees for judges troubling because they want to restrict established rights or roll back privacy issues, whether it is *Roe v. Wade* or LGBT rights.

In many cases, Mr. Duncan has tried to take away these very important reproductive rights for women. From 2012 to 2014, he was the lead counsel on the *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius* Supreme Court case. That flawed decision allows closely held corporations to deny FDA-approved contraceptive coverage to women employees if the company owners object to the contraception based on religious beliefs.

More than half of the working-age women in Washington State get their healthcare coverage through their employer. They pay for their coverage through hard-earned wages and compensation. Their employer should not be able to just cherry-pick what benefits they get because the owners have a self-professed religious objection.

Mr. Duncan also tried to go after State laws protecting birth control access. Thanks in part to Washington State pharmacist Jennifer Erickson, Washington State has a law on the books requiring all pharmacies to stock and deliver all lawfully prescribed drugs, including contraception, but Mr. Duncan worked to take that hard-fought access away.

In 2016, he filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to take up a challenge to the Washington State pharmacy law in order to strike it down.

He also worked to deny access to constitutional rights to terminate pregnancies. In the *Whole Women's Health* case, Mr. Duncan filed a brief defending an unconstitutional Texas law that restricted access to safe and legal abortions at qualified health providers.

Ultimately, in the *Whole Women's Health* case, the Supreme Court rightly struck down this very deceptive Texas law, finding it had nothing to do with medical necessity and placed an undue burden on women.

In the landmark case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Mr. Duncan authored an amicus brief which argued against same-sex marriage, and he has represented North Carolina in their defense of the "bathroom bill," which discriminated against transgender individuals. We need to expand the rights of the LGBT community, not nominate a judge who believes we should roll back these laws that are so important to the individuals in my State.

Mr. Duncan also defended North Carolina's restrictive voting laws which limited early voting, prevented same-day registration, and placed limitations on where people could vote. The appeals court found that these restrictions violated the Voting Rights Act because they were disproportionately affecting African Americans. We do not need to see a judge on our bench who is trying to limit people's participation in our democracy as we are trying to protect their access to voting.

It is no secret the Trump administration has been chipping away at women's healthcare and constitutional rights by using every tool at their disposal. I am especially troubled that the President is intent on nominating judges, such as this one, who do not respect the settled law of *Roe v. Wade*.

The administration is making every attempt to roll back these important privacy laws. Kyle Duncan, the nominee we are considering, has spent decades doing the same. That is the reason I oppose his confirmation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I hope they will follow in making sure we protect these important rights.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE RULES ON NOMINATIONS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, earlier today, the minority leader came to the floor to talk about multiple issues. During that conversation, he called me out by name regarding a rules proposal that I have in front of the Rules Committee this week. He said that he vehemently disagrees with that rules proposal. He even mentioned that he knows that I came here in 2014 and that I should study the history of the Senate a little bit more before I bring up a rules proposal. Well, I would only tell my colleague that I have studied the history, and I would like to get a little bit of context around those comments.

The rules proposal that the minority leader is opposing is the exact same rules proposal that he actually voted for in 2013 when he was on the Rules Committee and then voted for again when it came to the floor of the Senate. This is not some radical proposal.

In 2013, Democrats found intolerable what was happening with the nomination process, so at the beginning of 2013, they worked with Republicans and said: We need to be able to put a structure in place to get nominations through because a President should be able to have his staff put in place, and there shouldn't be an arbitrary slowdown of that process.

Republicans came on board, even during a very contentious time, because Republicans did not agree with the policies of President Obama. Yet they agreed.

With a vote of 78 total votes, 78 votes on the floor of the Senate, a rule change was made that was proposed by Senator Reid, supported by Senator SCHUMER, and supported by Senator MCCONNELL, to say that this is a rule change that will go into place. It was a very simple rule. The rule was just for nominees.

When nominees come to the floor, the minority can always ask for additional time to debate. Most of the time in the past, they have not, but they could. The time allotted for that purpose is 30 additional hours for debate. The assumption is that it is a controversial nominee when 30 additional hours of debate is required.

The time was lowered in this 2013 rule so that for district court nominees, just 2 hours of debate on the floor is needed because, quite frankly, district court nominees had never been held up on a cloture vote, so 2 hours of extra time. The nominees have already been through the committee process. They have already been approved. Now

they are coming to the floor, and if there is a request for additional time, they would get an additional 2 hours on the floor. For any other nominee, they would get 8 hours of additional time, if they even asked for more time. Supreme Court, circuit court, and Cabinet-level nominees would remain at 30 hours.

That was the agreement that was made and that we functioned under in 2013 and in 2014. Fast-forward to today. A historic new precedent has been set for any President coming in. It was absolutely not done by Republicans in the past, and it was absolutely not done by Democrats in the past, but it is being done now.

Right now, there are 67 judges pending and 139 executive nominees pending—139. In just the past year and a few months, Democrats have requested 85 cloture votes—that is asking for an additional 30 hours of debate time.

They can say: Well, these nominees need to be vetted. These are all nominees who have already gone through the committee process, have already waited in line. There has been a tremendous amount of vetting. Even if this was additional vetting—an additional 30 hours of debate on the floor—for most of these nominees by far, there has been less than an hour of actual debate on the floor for these individuals, but 30 hours has been requested. It is not 30 hours of debate. In fact, just over the past couple of weeks, we have had district court judges, and they have had a demand for a cloture vote on them, and we had less than 15 minutes of additional debate time for those individuals on the floor, but 30 hours had to be allocated. There was less than 15 minutes of actual debate on that person.

This is not about vetting. That is a good line for the media. That is a good line for the base. This is about slowing down the Senate. This is about slowing down the process.

Again, giving a side-by-side, the minority leader said that this is about keeping intact the power of the minority, that the power of the minority needs to be maintained in the Senate. I totally agree. That is why I am trying to work this through a normal rules process—the same rule the minority leader supported on the Rules Committee in 2013 and the same rule he voted for on the floor. The only difference now is that it is not Democrats in power, it is Republicans in power. Republicans joined Democrats in 2013 to be able to put this in place, but for some reason, now that Republicans are in power, Democrats are saying that this is an onerous rule that will take away the power of the minority.

The only real thing that has changed here—other than that now the Republicans are in control rather than Democrats—is one other thing; that is, the nuclear option. When Senator Reid and Senator SCHUMER put in place the nuclear option at the end of 2013, at that time, there were 20 judges pending and

56 executive nominations. But they unilaterally changed the rules of the Senate to be able to drop down nominations from 60 to 51 because they were so frustrated that there were 20 judges pending and 56 executive nominations. May I remind my colleagues that right now there are 67 judges pending and 139 executive nominations pending.

The minority was so frustrated when they were in the majority that they had to go nuclear and unilaterally change the rules in November of 2013, even after Republicans joined them in January of 2013 to change the cloture rules because there were 20 judges pending. Yet now there are 67 judges pending. At that time, there were 56, so they went nuclear on the executive nominations. Now there are 139.

Listen, this is not an argument that I am trying to make based on a partisan issue. I am trying to go back to the agreement that was made in 2013, which was a bipartisan agreement. That worked for that time period. Republicans and Democrats supported it, and it worked. We actually had a process that was in place. I am asking to take that Democrat-written document and say: Let's make that the rule from here on out—not just for this session but from here on out—so that we would have consistency whether Republicans or Democrats are in control.

All I am asking is that Democrats vote again now for the same thing they voted for in 2013 when they asked Republicans to join them; for Democrats to join us and to say: Let's make this the clear rule for everyone. That is the history that I think needs to get into this conversation.

Quite frankly, I am not asking for something radical. I am trying to do a rules change the right way, by the rules as they are written, going through the Rules Committee and having a hearing, which we had in December, having a markup in the Rules Committee, and bringing it to the floor of the Senate and actually implementing a rules change. If there is another proposal we want to consider, I will be glad to have that conversation.

I am not looking to make it contentious; I am trying to actually solve a bad precedent because the precedent that has been set by the minority party right now will be the new precedent when the next President comes. So the next time there is a Democratic President, I can assure my colleagues that Republicans will say: We will just do the same thing the Democrats did to the Republican President—we will do that to the next Democratic President. And year after year, this toxic environment will get worse. The only way to dial back the volume is to actually fix the rules to make sure they stay fair for everyone.

Again, this is not a partisan move for me; this is trying to get the Senate to actually function and work again.

This rule change that was done in 2013—Senator Reid and Senator MCCONNELL came to the floor of the

Senate and had a colloquy, and in that colloquy, Senator Reid said:

It is our expectation that this new process for considering nominations as set out in this order will not be the norm—

That is, asking for additional time for every person—

but that the two leaders will continue to work together to schedule votes on nominees in a timely manner by unanimous consent, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Those were Senator Reid's comments. But now, this has been invoked more than 80 times by the minority just this year. There have not been 80 extraordinary circumstances. Quite frankly, many of these individuals waited out additional time for cloture and then they were confirmed almost unanimously. They weren't controversial; it was about slowing down the Senate.

Let's get this fixed. When the Senate is broken—and it is certainly broken in process right now—the Senators can fix the Senate by fixing our own rules. That is what I am encouraging our body to do. I do understand the history—although the minority leader is right, I wasn't here when the nuclear option was imposed. When Democrats did the historic change to the Senate rules, unilaterally—I wasn't here then. Senator SCHUMER did support that and did make a radical change at that time. I have to read about that history. But I can tell my colleagues that we can fix our future—and not just for Republicans but for the country—if we actually fix this rule change for the future.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 765.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Lt. Gen. Paul M. Nakasone to be General in the United States Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nakasone nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Duncan nomination expire at 3 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, I ask my colleagues to join us in voting swiftly and unanimously in support of Mike Pompeo's nomination to serve as the next Secretary of State.

Frankly, I am embarrassed by the naked partisanship that was on display during Director Pompeo's confirmation hearing. The Director deserves better than this. That his nomination was nearly sent to the floor without recommendation is an utter disgrace.

This is a graduate of West Point and a man who served our Nation honorably as a cavalry officer in the U.S. Army. This is a talented litigator who graduated from Harvard Law School, where he served as editor of the Harvard Law Review. This is an accomplished businessman, a former Member of Congress, and the current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. This is a man who is qualified to serve in every respect. Yet some of my colleagues wanted to block Director Pompeo's nomination on the grounds that he supports our President. Give me a break.

To these colleagues, I say: Enough. Enough of the partisan games. Enough of the political grandstanding and self-serving sanctimony.

Delaying this nomination undermines not only the reputation of this esteemed body but the very safety of our Nation. Obstructing Director Pompeo's confirmation would be a significant break from the bipartisan process that has characterized these kinds of nominations in the past and over my past 42 years.

For example, when President Obama nominated Hillary Clinton to serve as Secretary of State, Republicans and Democrats set aside their differences without delay, confirming her nomination almost unanimously with a vote of 94 to 2. Just 4 years later, the Senate did so again when we confirmed John Kerry with a vote of 94 to 3.

As Republicans, did we disagree with Secretary Clinton's and Secretary Kerry's views on a wide range of issues? Absolutely. But did those disagreements prevent us from confirming two preeminently qualified nominees? Absolutely not.

As a case in point, when Secretary Kerry was confirmed in January 2013, the Syrian civil war was raging, and many of us strongly disagreed with the Obama administration's policies in the Middle East. To my frustration and

that of all my Republican colleagues, it seemed that Secretary Kerry's Syria policy differed little from his predecessor's, but rather than turn our dissenting votes into destructive votes, we voted almost unanimously for his confirmation.

There was an understanding at the time that you paid deference to the President's nominees, even if you disagreed with them on certain policies. Today, that custom is under siege. It is under threat. If we are not careful, in the future, then partisanship will sure get the best of all of us.

The partisan abandon with which some approached Director Pompeo's nomination is something that I fear the Founding Fathers would never have imagined, much less condoned. If we continue down this perilous path, a dangerous precedent will take root, making any nomination under any President at any time all but impossible.

Our role as legislators is to challenge the views of our nominees and to hold them accountable. It is not, however, to discredit, defame, and destroy the reputation of a sitting Cabinet official. Nor is it to prevent from serving a man who is so manifestly qualified to serve. To engage in such political games at a time when our Nation faces growing threats abroad is not only irresponsible, but it is dangerous.

So I say to my colleagues one last time: Confirm Director Pompeo.

He has proven himself as Director of the CIA—one of the most demanding, high-pressure jobs in government. He knows the world and its secrets better than virtually anyone. Moreover, he understands the scale of the threats facing the United States. I know that, I think I am still the longest serving member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Perhaps most importantly, he has earned the love and trust of the people he serves, boosting the morale of the Agency and reinvigorating its sense of purpose and mission. We are in desperate need of someone who can do the same at the State Department.

Already, Director Pompeo has demonstrated he has the diplomatic skill to lead the State Department, setting the stage for negotiations between President Trump and Mr. Kim by establishing a back-channel line of communication with North Korea. He has also helped foster good relations with our foreign partners—a necessary skill for someone serving as our Nation's top diplomat.

Simply put, there is no reason under the Sun that Director Pompeo should not receive every last vote in this Chamber.

The way we treated Director Pompeo by nearly sending him to this floor without a recommendation was shameful. Indeed, the reputation of the Senate would have been tarnished were it not for the last-minute intervention of a few of my colleagues—in particular, Senator CHRIS COONS, for whom I have great admiration. He thinks for himself.

I wanted to recognize Senator COONS today and thank him for his leadership. In a display of both compassion and bipartisanship, Senator COONS switched his "no" vote to "present," ultimately allowing Director Pompeo to secure a favorable recommendation. Senator COONS did so as a gesture to Senator ISAKSON, who could not be present for the vote because he was delivering a eulogy at his best friend's funeral.

This simple act of bipartisanship reminds me of the Senate I used to know—the institution that lived worthy of its name and reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body. Senator COONS' vote brought us back from the precipice overlooking a partisan abyss. It was a timely reminder that this body is at its best when we put comity and respect ahead of partisanship. Senator COONS' gesture was characteristic of the person I know him to be—a class act, a loyal friend, and a true gentleman of the Senate.

May we all take a cue from yesterday's bipartisan display. Our treatment of Director Pompeo in committee was embarrassing, to say the least, but now we have a second chance. Now we have the opportunity to set things right by voting unanimously for his confirmation. I urge all my colleagues to do what is best for the Senate and the Nation by voting in favor of Director Pompeo's nomination.

Let's get rid of this total partisanship around here. I think both sides are to blame, in some respects. I don't mean to just be picking on Democrats here today, but when somebody with the quality of Director Pompeo is seeing this type of treatment on the floor of the U.S. Senate, my gosh, what are we becoming? All I can say is, it is not right.

This is a chance to reform and make it right. I hope we will do that. If we don't, we have to find a way of getting together. We have to find a way of supporting whoever is President, who nominates people who are qualified and who are good people, regardless of whether we agree with them ideologically.

The fact is, this Senate has become a very partisan body. There are times to be partisan. There is no question about that, and all of us have felt those times from time to time. My gosh, should we be this partisan on somebody like Secretary Pompeo, who clearly is one of the finest nominees I have seen in the whole time I have been in the U.S. Senate?

I hope my colleagues on both sides will vote for him and give him the respect, the support, and the help he is going to need in this position. We all know he is going to be confirmed. The question is, Will he be confirmed with the support of all of us Senators who really think of these things and who really care for our country, who really believe in bipartisanship, who really believe that regardless of differences of politics and opinion, class acts like Mr. Pompeo should be supported?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today the Senate is considering a divisive nominee to sit on the Fifth Circuit Court. It completely baffles me that this administration continues to put forth nominees who are either clearly unqualified or intensely partisan and controversial. This body has historically worked together to confirm consensus nominees to serve on the appellate bench. Unfortunately, that has not been the case over this past year. We have seen contentious nominee after contentious nominee. Unfortunately, the Republican majority has abdicated its responsibility to instead choose a judicial person of integrity who is willing to find common ground.

This afternoon's vote to confirm Stuart Kyle Duncan to the Fifth Circuit Court is a perfect example of a divisive candidate. Mr. Duncan is an extreme nominee. His nomination is a senseless attack on access to healthcare for women, especially women in rural and underserved areas. His nomination is an attack on LGBT civil rights and an attack on free and open access to the ballot for all Americans.

One only needs to look at his record. Mr. Duncan served as lead counsel in *Hobby Lobby v. Burwell*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that a for-profit corporation can have religious beliefs and, therefore, can deny contraceptive coverage as part of their employer-sponsored health insurance plans.

I have said this before, and I will say it again, I have never sat next to a corporation in church. Corporations do not have religious beliefs, and a woman should have access to reproductive health services and the freedom to make her own decisions about her own healthcare.

In addition to his record of hostility to the self-determination of women, Mr. Duncan has an abysmal civil rights record. Mr. Duncan coauthored an amicus brief in opposition to marriage equality when this important issue was before the Supreme Court. In that same vein of discrimination, Mr. Duncan has repeatedly engaged in efforts to suppress the votes of minority voters. He has defended North Carolina voter suppression measures that were ultimately struck down by the Fourth Circuit. The court determined the discriminatory measures "targeted African-Americans with almost surgical precision."

Mr. Duncan's nomination is, frankly, unconscionable. Our court system should be a level playing field, where no matter who you are or where you live, you will receive fair and equal treatment. In contrast to that spirit, this nominee has spent a significant part of the past decade advocating for the denial of rights for women, minorities, and the LGBT community.

I have absolutely no confidence that this nominee will stay true not only to the letter of the law but to the spirit of

the law as well. Our constituents sent us to Washington to look out for the best interests of all Americans. That is why we need to move away from divisive nominees and instead focus on the confirmation of qualified consensus nominees. It is clear Mr. Duncan is out of step with mainstream American values, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing his nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of Kyle Duncan to serve on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Duncan's record shows that he is far outside the judicial mainstream. He has a history of ideological opposition to important civil and constitutional rights. There are many examples of Mr. Duncan's extreme views. I will discuss several of them.

First, Mr. Duncan has a track record of outright hostility toward the Supreme Court's Obergefell decision and the rights of the LGBTQ community.

When the Obergefell case was pending before the Supreme Court, Mr. Duncan wrote an article where he described the plaintiffs in the case as, "profoundly mistaken." He went on to write: "It is often asked by proponents of same sex marriage what harms would flow from judicial recognition of their claims. From the perspective of democratic self-government, those harms would be severe, unavoidable, and irreversible."

After the Obergefell plaintiffs won and the Supreme Court recognized the right to same-sex marriage, Mr. Duncan wrote another article where he described the Obergefell decision as "an abject failure" and said the case "imperils civic peace."

When he was before the Judiciary Committee, I asked Mr. Duncan in writing if he agreed that same-sex marriage is now settled law. He ducked the question.

This surprised me. Even President Trump conceded in November 2016 that same-sex marriage is "already settled. It's law. It was settled in the Supreme Court," but Mr. Duncan would not acknowledge that point.

I also asked Mr. Duncan in writing if he would pledge not to take steps to undermine the Supreme Court's Obergefell decision if he were confirmed. He did not respond to that question either.

Make no mistake, Mr. Duncan's advocacy against LGBTQ rights goes beyond arguments that he advanced on behalf of clients. He has repeatedly advocated against LGBTQ rights when writing in his own personal capacity about his own views.

Mr. Duncan also has a troubling record of hostility to voting rights.

He joined with another extreme Trump judicial nominee, Thomas Farr, to represent the North Carolina Legislature in seeking Supreme Court review of the Fourth Circuit's decision to strike down North Carolina's 2013 voter suppression law.

This is the notorious law that the Fourth Circuit said targeted African-

American voters with "almost surgical precision." The Fourth Circuit decried this law as "the most restrictive voting law North Carolina has seen since the era of Jim Crow."

Mr. Duncan's brief argued that the Fourth Circuit's decision was "an affront to North Carolina's citizens and their elected representatives." Fortunately, the Supreme Court denied Mr. Duncan's cert petition.

Mr. Duncan also wrote a brief defending a Texas voter ID law that the Fifth Circuit ruled had violated the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Duncan's brief cited the specter of voter fraud to support his argument that this law was necessary.

I decided to ask Mr. Duncan a simple question about voter fraud. I asked him in writing what he thought of President Trump's wholly unsubstantiated claim that 3 to 5 million people voted illegally in the 2016 election.

His response? He said "I am constrained by the canons of judicial ethics from commenting on political matters."

Why would we put someone on the Federal bench who thinks a false claim about millions of illegal voters in the 2016 election is a "political matter"? Why couldn't Mr. Duncan bring himself to say that President Trump's statement was blatantly false?

Mr. Duncan's views on voting rights are troubling, so much so that Derrick Johnson, president of the NAACP, sent a letter saying that "President Trump's nomination of Mr. Duncan to the Fifth Circuit is a brazen insult to the civil rights legacy of this court."

There are many other issues where Mr. Duncan has advocated for positions that are far to the right of the center stripe.

In 2014, he gave a speech where he discussed the Supreme Court's right-to-marry cases, including the landmark decision *Loving v. Virginia*, and said to the audience, "Ask yourselves this: do they add up to a right to marry your first cousin? A thirteen year old?"

Mr. Duncan also filed briefs in opposition to the DACA program and the proposed DAPA program, which he claimed "would greatly increase the risk of unauthorized immigrants committing serious crimes." His arguments perpetuated a stereotype of immigrants as criminals that is simply not borne out by evidence.

Mr. Duncan represented Hobby Lobby in its Supreme Court case, where he argued that for-profit corporations have religious rights that permit them to circumvent the law and refuse to provide contraceptive coverage to their employees.

The NAACP has described Mr. Duncan's record on criminal justice issues as "abysmal." They noted his efforts to overturn a wrongful conviction verdict based on prosecutor misconduct, as well as his defense of inhumane conditions in severely overcrowded prisons.

What kind of message does it send when the Republican Party goes out of

its way to nominate people like Mr. Duncan who have expressed such hostile views on issues of fundamental civil rights such as the right to marry and LGBTQ rights?

There are plenty of well-qualified Republican judicial candidates who do not have a track record of taking extreme ideological views. Why choose someone like Mr. Duncan? What kind of signal does that send to litigants who might argue before the Fifth Circuit?

It is possible to find highly qualified, nonideological candidates for the Federal bench, nominees whom both parties can be proud of. We have done that with the two pending Illinois nominees to the Seventh Circuit. I wish that had happened with this Fifth Circuit vacancy, but unfortunately, that is not the case.

I cannot support Mr. Duncan's nomination, and I will vote no.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Kyle Duncan to a Louisiana seat on the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. Duncan, a Washington, DC, based lawyer, has made a career advocating for ideological causes. He has a long record of arguing to undermine the rights of women, voters, LGBT Americans, and immigrants.

Before I speak more in depth about Mr. Duncan's record, it is important to step back and look at the big picture on President Trump's judicial nominees.

Mr. Duncan's nomination is part of the Trump administration's larger effort to remake Federal circuit courts with young, ideological nominees who are often far outside of the mainstream or, in some cases, who are unqualified.

In just the last 15 months, we have seen a nominee confirmed to the D.C. Circuit who worked in the White House counsel's office on issues likely to go to the court he was appointed to, including on the White House's responses to the Russia investigation.

As one Republican Senator said, this now-judge's "conflict of interest" was something "a first-year law student would see."

We have seen a nominee confirmed to the Sixth Circuit who blogged under a pseudonym and expressed extreme views and relied on rightwing sources known for discredited conspiracy theories. For example, he wrote in a blog post that the "two greatest tragedies in our country are "slavery and abortion."

We have seen a nominee to the Eighth Circuit who was the first judicial nominee to receive a unanimous "not qualified" from the American Bar Association because of concerns about the nominee's judicial temperament and ability to be impartial and still get confirmed on a party-line vote.

Unfortunately, Mr. Duncan is just the latest nominee with a controversial, partisan record that calls into question his ability to be an independent, neutral arbiter appointed to a lifetime position.

We must not allow our courts to be undermined by politics instead of rooted in independence. The courts are a constitutionally created coequal, independent branch designed to be an independent check on Congress and the Executive.

Unfortunately, that independence is under attack.

The President has personally attacked judges who have ruled against him.

He has also repeatedly declared that he has litmus tests for judicial nominees, pledging that he would only nominate individuals who pass ideological litmus tests.

Our system depends on Federal judges who are independent arbiters and follow the facts and the law wherever they lead.

Given this, I have been deeply troubled by efforts to stack our Federal courts by jamming controversial nominees through as quickly as possible. Federal judges serve for life, and it is critically important that parties who come before them are confident that their case is given a fair shot, that it is being evaluated on the merits.

If you look at Mr. Duncan's record, he cannot demonstrate that women, LGBT Americans, and immigrants who appear before him in court would have an impartial arbiter.

That should trouble all senators. I fear Mr. Duncan's confirmation to the Fifth Circuit will further diminish confidence in our judicial system.

Specifically, Mr. Duncan has been at the center of efforts to roll back women's access to basic healthcare.

Mr. Duncan served as one of the lead lawyers for Hobby Lobby in a case challenging the Affordable Care Act's protections for women's access to contraception. Duncan advanced the argument that a corporation's religious beliefs trump a woman's right to contraceptive coverage in her health insurance plan.

More than 99 percent of American women have used contraception; it is more common than a flu shot.

Access to contraception contributes to improved health for women and babies, including reduced rates of prematurity. The expansion of contraception has also strengthened women's financial security by allowing them to plan when to start a family.

Mr. Duncan also argued in favor of a severely restrictive anti-choice law in Texas, which would have closed 75 percent of women's health clinics that offer comprehensive reproductive health services.

While medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, unanimously agreed that these requirements were not needed to protect women's health, Mr. Duncan argued against the science.

Even the conservative Supreme Court rejected Texas's false pretense of protecting women and ruled that this law forced doctors and health centers to meet medically unnecessary requirements.

The Supreme Court held the law did not provide greater protection for women's health and that it was an unconstitutional undue burden on women's reproductive rights.

Mr. Duncan was also at the center of Republican efforts to disenfranchise African-American voters through discriminatory voter ID laws.

After the Fourth Circuit struck down North Carolina's voter ID law, noting that it "targeted African Americans with almost surgical precision," Duncan urged the Supreme Court to reverse that decision.

In his petition to the court, he wrote that, "The Constitution does not allow the sins of Civil Rights-era legislators to be visited on their grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Shockingly, this statement ignores the persisting racism in this country and argues that the challenges faced by disenfranchised voters are simply a thing of the past.

What is worse, this argument is made about the right to vote. The U.S. Constitution enshrines the right to vote as one of our most foundational rights.

Mr. Duncan has also repeatedly argued against recognizing same-sex couples' right to marry.

When the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality in *Obergefell*, Mr. Duncan declared the decision "imperil[ed] civic peace."

That is an extreme statement that is simply untrue. Far from imperiling peace, our country has evolved and embraced this ruling peacefully.

I asked Mr. Duncan whether he still believes that this important case has "imperil[ed] civic peace" in the years since it was decided. Mr. Duncan did not disavow his statement and would not answer my question.

Lastly, we are a nation of immigrants. Since its founding, the United States has been built on the backs of people from all over the world coming here to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Less than 2 years ago, in 2016, Duncan argued to the Supreme Court that allowing undocumented parents of U.S. citizen children to live and work would, "exacerbate the problem of violent crime by unauthorized immigrants."

Again, Mr. Duncan makes an assertion with no basis in fact. Rather, research shows that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native born Americans. The conservative Cato Institute found that immigrants have a lower rate of incarceration than native-born Americans.

While I do not expect to agree with the views of all the judicial nominees that come before the Senate, I do expect the nominees to be within the mainstream of legal thought. I do expect the nominees to uphold basic facts, science, and constitutional principles.

I fear that Mr. Duncan's record puts him outside these basic qualifications, and I cannot support his nomination.

Mr. PETERS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, it is no secret that powerful interests are working to undermine our government. Giant companies and rightwing billionaires have been pouring unlimited sums of money into making sure our government works for those at the top and leaves everyone else behind, and a key part of their strategy is to capture our courts.

During the Obama administration, those powerful interests and their Republican allies in Congress executed an unprecedented campaign to stop fair-minded, impartial nominees from filling judicial vacancies. Nominees weren't blocked because they were unqualified. They weren't blocked because they were inexperienced. They weren't blocked because they were out of the mainstream. They were blocked for one reason and one reason alone: because they didn't demonstrate a sufficient willingness to bend the law in favor of the rich and the powerful.

With Donald Trump as President, these same interests sense a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape our courts for years to come, and they are working to stack our courts with narrow-minded elitists and rightwing radicals. Stuart Kyle Duncan—President Trump's nominee to sit on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals—is one of those nominees.

Mr. Duncan has spent his career working to restrict—not to expand, but to restrict—civil rights in the United States. Over and over again, he has sought to tilt the scales of justice against women, against LGBTQ Americans, against people of color, and others. Mr. Duncan's record of supporting discrimination and injustice is quite lengthy, so I will focus on just a few of the most disturbing examples. Let's start with his record on women's rights.

Mr. Duncan has worked to make it harder for women to access contraceptive coverage and abortion services. He was the lead attorney for the arts and crafts company Hobby Lobby in the Supreme Court case of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*. In that case, he argued that business owners should be allowed to refuse to provide female employees access to contraceptive care based on those employers' religious views.

Mr. Duncan also filed briefs in many other Supreme Court cases, petitioning the Court to restrict women's access to birth control and abortion services, ignoring the fact that access to contraceptive care can help women lead better, healthier, or more financially secure lives. He is the man who is seeking a Federal judgeship.

Let's take a look at his record on LGBTQ rights. Mr. Duncan has complained about what he calls the "general acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual practices" in America, and he has worked very hard to convince courts to adopt his narrow-minded view of the world.

In the landmark Supreme Court case that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, Mr. Duncan filed briefs, asking the Court to reach the opposite result. After the Supreme Court handed down those historic decisions, Mr. Duncan, who, today, expects to be confirmed as a Federal appellate judge, claimed that the decision would jeopardize civic peace and openly questioned the Supreme Court's legitimacy.

Mr. Duncan also represented the Gloucester County School Board in its effort to deny Gavin Grimm, who is a transgender high school boy, the ability to use the boys' bathroom. He represented North Carolina's General Assembly in a lawsuit that challenged the assembly's bathroom bill banning transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals from using restrooms that are consistent with their gender identities.

In his asking courts to allow government-sanctioned discrimination in these cases, Mr. Duncan has completely ignored scientific evidence and medical expertise. Instead, he has asserted that transgender individuals are mentally ill. In one case, he argued that there was no sound scientific evidence proving that individuals who identify as transgender are not delusional.

In case after case, Mr. Duncan has defended discrimination and injustice.

On voting rights, he defended North Carolina's discriminatory voter ID law that a Federal court concluded targeted African-American voters with almost "surgical precision."

On immigration, he filed briefs that opposed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, DACA Program, which allowed Dreamers to contribute to our schools, our communities, and our economy without their having the constant fear of deportation.

On criminal justice, he fought to block the retroactive application of the Supreme Court's decision that ruled it is unconstitutional to sentence kids to life without parole.

Time and again, Mr. Duncan has been on the wrong side of justice and has worked to undermine the civil rights of groups that have historically faced discrimination.

Federal judges have one job and one job only—to dispense equal justice under law. That means everyone—man or woman, gay or straight, Black or Brown or White—should have confidence that the judges we hand lifetime appointments to will put fairness and fidelity to the law over their personal feelings or political ideologies.

Stuart Kyle Duncan has made it perfectly clear that he cannot and will not

meet that standard. That is why I will be voting to reject Mr. Duncan's nomination, and I urge every Senator who believes in the principle of equal justice under law to do the same.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to oppose Kyle Duncan's nomination to serve on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A review of Mr. Duncan's record—his cases and chosen causes—shows he is a dangerous, ideological nominee who has consistently been on the wrong side of women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and civil rights. Let's start with Mr. Duncan's record that argues against women's rights and reproductive freedom.

When he served as the lead counsel in the infamous Hobby Lobby case, he argued that an employer can interfere with a woman's personal healthcare choices.

In Texas, he filed a brief that was in favor of abortion restrictions that would have shut down the vast majority of clinics in that State—restrictions the Supreme Court, ultimately, ruled an "undue burden" on a woman's constitutional right to a safe, legal abortion.

In my home State of Washington, he filed a brief that argued pharmacies should be allowed to refuse to fill birth control prescriptions for ideological reasons. Fortunately, his views did not prevail.

Then there is Mr. Duncan's long record of opposing LGBTQ rights.

When it comes to the rights of same-sex couples, he argued against two loving parents who wanted to change their baby's birth certificate so they could add him to their insurance plan. He argued for denying a same-sex spouse her parental visiting rights to the children she had raised for 8 years. He also defended bans on same-sex marriages in Louisiana and Virginia.

When the Supreme Court was considering whether to strike down bans on same-sex marriage nationwide, he said the harm of doing this would be "severe, unavoidable, and irreversible," and he filed an amicus brief against it. When the Court then made its historic decision to recognize same-sex marriage as a fundamental right, Mr. Duncan said it "raises questions about the legitimacy of the Court." He said it might "imperil civic peace."

When it comes to the rights of transgender people, he fought for the intolerant, harmful bathroom ban in North Carolina and against Gavin, a young boy in Virginia who simply wanted his school to allow him to use the men's restroom. He did it by using bigoted remarks that were nothing short of appalling.

In defending the outrageous ban in North Carolina, he relied on bogus testimony from a self-proclaimed expert who suggested that transgender people

are delusional. In his opposing Gavin in Virginia, Mr. Duncan advanced the offensive and discredited conspiracy theory that schools need to fear athletes who pretend to be transgender in order to gain a competitive advantage.

Outside of the court, outside of his client work, he has repeatedly addressed an organization that has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center—an organization that calls marriage equality an “oxymoronic institution if ever there was one.”

There are other red flags about his commitment to defending civil rights.

For example, when the Supreme Court ruled that mandatory life sentences for minors were unconstitutional, he argued the ruling shouldn’t apply retroactively.

He argued that prisons that are packed to double their capacity were not in violation of the Eighth Amendment’s ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The Supreme Court disagreed, noting the problem caused “needless suffering and death.”

In a case involving an innocent man who had spent 14 years on death row—an innocent man—Mr. Duncan argued that the district attorney’s office was not at fault for failing to train a staff member who had withheld evidence.

When it comes to one of the fundamental rights in a democracy—the right to vote, the right of the people to choose their government officials—Mr. Duncan defended a racially tailored voter ID law in North Carolina, which the courts ultimately struck down for targeting African Americans with “almost surgical precision.”

Any one of these cases Mr. Duncan has chosen to take should raise alarm, and any one of the ideological arguments he has made should cause concern. Yet all of them together paint an unmistakable picture of a nominee who would not uphold women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, or civil rights.

To paraphrase one of his own statements, if confirmed, I believe the damage Mr. Duncan will do to people by putting his ideology over their rights will be severe, unavoidable, and irreversible. I oppose his nomination. I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.

and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Stuart Kyle Duncan to serve on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Our Founders established our court system as an independent arbiter that would protect the rights of every American and ensure equal justice under the law. For us to move forward, our democracy requires an independent and impartial judiciary.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has focused on nominating individuals to our courts who have extreme partisan agendas that would move us backward. This latest nomination is no different. Mr. Duncan has spent his career working to undermine the progress we have made toward building a more inclusive, more equal United States. Rather than working to include more people in our democracy, Mr. Duncan’s law practice has seemingly been devoted to restricting people’s rights and making life more challenging for some of the most marginalized among us. His dangerous record raises serious doubts about his ability to act impartially on the bench with regard to a number of key issues.

In recent years, our Nation has made significant progress in advancing the rights of our LGBTQ family and friends, built on the principle that all people deserve the right to fully participate in the social, civic, and economic life of our community. At every turn, Mr. Duncan has been on the wrong side of history, working at the forefront in the fight against LGBTQ equality. He has been vehemently opposed to marriage equality, filing a legal brief to the Supreme Court arguing against the decision that was reached in the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges case, later claiming that the decision “raises a question about the legitimacy of the Court.” He has even gone so far as to repeatedly claim that nationwide marriage equality, “imperils civic peace,” a statement that is both ridiculous and offensive.

Mr. Duncan has fought against adoption rights for same-sex parents and has dismissed the real necessity for LGBTQ antidiscrimination laws.

He has been unyielding in his attempts to undermine the rights of transgender individuals. In two major cases involving transgender rights, including the now infamous so-called “bathroom bill” in North Carolina, Mr. Duncan has been the go-to attorney, demeaning transgender people and even describing them as “delusional.” Given his history, I am deeply concerned that Mr. Duncan would be unable to act impartially if a case involving LGBTQ Americans were to come before the Fifth Circuit.

I also have real concerns of Mr. Duncan’s record when it comes to women’s healthcare and their constitutionally protected rights because his record shows that he has been a consistent opponent of reproductive freedom.

Mr. Duncan was the lead counsel in the backward Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision, which allows employers to deny contraceptive coverage to women. He has long supported efforts to diminish women’s access to their constitutionally protected right to an abortion, arguing in favor of a Texas law in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* that shut down abortion providers and was eventually rejected by the Court. He even contested the fact that contraceptives can be necessary to protect a woman’s health and has challenged the importance of contraception to a woman’s capacity to compete economically.

Medical professionals prescribe contraceptives to women for a variety of health conditions, including conditions such as ovarian cysts, which can be debilitating and could threaten a woman’s fertility. Moreover, women who use contraceptives to engage in family planning often have better health outcomes, as do their children.

To compete economically on a level playing field, women must be able to make their own decisions about if or when to start a family. Studies have shown that women who have greater access to contraceptive coverage are better able to support themselves and their families and to be full participants not just in our economy but also in our democracy.

Women must be recognized for their capacity to make their own healthcare decisions, just as men are. They must also have the full independence to do so. But it is clear that Mr. Duncan has a fundamental misunderstanding of the importance of reproductive freedom and ensuring that women are treated equally.

On these key issues, Mr. Duncan lacks the impartiality and commitment to equal justice for every American that is needed to serve in a lifetime judicial appointment. This is particularly critical on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers States that lack critical protections for LGBTQ Americans and have a history of passing dangerous laws that have blocked women’s access to healthcare. Marginalized individuals in the States in the Fifth Circuit and all Americans deserve judges who will always use sound judgment and objectivity and not operate with extreme ideological agendas.

I will oppose Mr. Duncan’s nomination to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition to the nomination of Kyle Duncan to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Duncan has spent large portions of his legal career seeking to suppress the rights of immigrants, minorities, women, and the LGBTQ community. In short, his values are grossly out of touch with a modern and inclusive America.

I can't say I am surprised that Mr. Duncan has been nominated by a President who has called Mexicans racists and drug dealers. President Trump and Mr. Duncan share the same extreme political ideology, especially regarding their view of immigrants. Mr. Duncan, in an amicus brief challenging the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, wrote that permitting DAPA—the acronym for that program—to go into effect would exacerbate the problem of violent crime by unauthorized immigrants. This position advances the false and offensive narrative that a majority of immigrants are violent criminals. In fact, DAPA was a program that would have allowed the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident who had lived in the United States continuously for years and passed a criminal background check to remain in the United States with legal status and a work permit. This program was never implemented, but it would have kept families together, and to suggest it would have benefited criminals and threatened public safety is just plain wrong. It fits with the Republican Party's misleading and racist attacks on immigrants in this country.

Mr. Duncan makes these arguments despite overwhelming evidence that immigrants commit less crime than native-born Americans, and numerous law enforcement entities have voiced their support for DAPA because the program actually advances public safety by encouraging cooperation and trust between immigrant communities and the police.

A year after voicing his opposition to DAPA, Mr. Duncan submitted another amicus brief. This time he argued against the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, claiming it was unconstitutional. So we know where Mr. Duncan stands in stereotyping immigrants, but Mr. Duncan is not just hostile to immigrants.

He represented North Carolina in its defense of a discriminatory voting law, urging the Supreme Court to hear the case. In the brief, Duncan wrote, "The Constitution does not allow the sins of Civil Rights-era legislators to be visited on their grandchildren and great-grandchildren." Yet the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals had found that the law was enacted with discriminatory intent and "targeted African Ameri-

cans with almost surgical precision." Mr. Duncan appeared to have clearly missed the point as to who the real victims were.

In another voting rights case, Duncan argued that Texas's restrictive voter ID law helped to "prevent voter fraud." Although this myth has been debunked over and over and over again, the Republican Party, President Trump, and Mr. Duncan continue to perpetuate this lie to the American people in an effort to suppress the voting rights of others.

I would be remiss if I ended these remarks without noting Mr. Duncan's extremely troubling record on reproductive rights and his hostility toward the LGBTQ community. He has continuously fought to restrict women's access to contraceptives. In 2013, he criticized the Affordable Care Act's inclusion of contraceptives as an essential benefit for the health and economic success of society, particularly women.

Given that he holds these views, it seems fitting that Mr. Duncan would serve as the lead counsel in *Hobby Lobby v. Burwell*, in which he argued that corporations have the right to deny contraceptive coverage to their employees. I am sure he was pleased when the Supreme Court agreed with him.

Yet, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which recognized same-sex marriage as a fundamental right, Duncan said that such a decision "raises a question about the legitimacy of the Court." This comment cuts to the core of my opposition to Mr. Duncan—his disregard and contempt for judicial precedent he disagrees with.

Even before the Supreme Court considered same-sex marriage, Duncan warned that if the courts granted the right to same-sex marriage, then they might have to grant the right to marry a first cousin or a 13-year-old. To clarify, this is a man who believes that the rights of a corporation to deny employees health benefits is perfectly constitutional. Yet granting the right to same-sex marriage will lead us down a road to child marriage.

I know my colleagues are on a furious quest to pack the Federal bench with conservative judges—judges who hold outrageous views, views out of step with the American public. I do not trust, nor does his record suggest, that once Mr. Duncan puts on the judicial robe, he will uphold the rule of law for all Americans and not just those who share his ideological views.

I do not believe he can be an unbiased jurist, and that is exactly why the President nominated him and his supporters will vote for him.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination of Mr. Duncan.

I yield the floor.

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.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to oppose the nomination of Kyle Duncan to be a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court for the Fifth Circuit. The court of appeals for that circuit and every other in our country is supremely important not only to people who live in its direct jurisdiction but for all people of our country. Courts of appeals make decisions that are binding on district courts in that jurisdiction and also have an impact on other judges and courts throughout the country at every level.

From day one, the Trump administration has made attacking basic civil liberties a guiding principle of the policies it supports, including its judicial nominees. It is inexcusably seeking to turn back the clock on the progress we have made. We fought back hard against these arcane and irrational policies, but President Trump's attempt to stack our courts with extremist judges may, in the end, have the most long-lasting and devastating impact on our Nation. That is why I am here today, with many of my colleagues, to sound the alarm on Kyle Duncan. He has been nominated to this court, but he has made a career of seeking to turn back policies that protect the most vulnerable members of our country.

He is out of mainstream. In fact, he is out of the stream entirely. His views are extreme, fringed, and, collectively, they make him unfit to be a judge on this court that I greatly respect. Out of respect to members of the court, we should confirm someone only if they meet high standards.

Kyle Duncan has attacked the voting rights of minority groups—in one case, even defending a law that a Federal circuit court said targeted African-American voters with "almost surgical precision." He has attacked the rights of same-sex couples, leading several efforts against marriage equality. He has attacked the rights of the transgender community to be safe in their schools and communities. He has attacked protections for Dreamers, making it harder for them to obtain documentation, such as simple driver's licenses.

Over and over, he has attacked women's rights and women's health in a way that I think disqualifies him for this court. Like so many other nominees before him, Kyle Duncan is an anti-choice zealot who has shown time and again that he is more worried about pushing his personal ideology than faithfully upholding the Constitution. His views on women's rights and women's healthcare are more than morally repugnant; they are downright dangerous.

In fact, Kyle Duncan has led the charge in defending unconstitutional and unnecessary laws that target abortion providers, attempting to legislate

them out of existence with little regard for the women who will be harmed as a result. These laws, which have spread around the country at an alarming rate, serve no medical purpose. They put barriers between women and the care they need and deserve. Twice—twice—Mr. Duncan has falsely argued that these restrictions targeting abortion providers in Louisiana and Texas were “medically reasonable” and based on “solid medical ground.” These laws were rightly struck down both times. Indeed, these laws are the opposite of medically reasonable. In no way are they based on medical ground. With this nominee’s enthusiastic support, these unconstitutional State-level restrictions have proliferated, shutting down women’s healthcare providers, delaying much needed care, and putting women’s health at risk.

Kyle Duncan’s peddling of misinformation as a lawyer fighting for these unnecessary and unconstitutional abortion laws is frightening enough. Imagine what he could do on the bench.

He has fought to undo historic healthcare victories provided by the Affordable Care Act’s birth control mandate. As we know in this Chamber—and I think we need to acknowledge—this mandate has made a difference in the lives of an astonishing 64.2 million women who were able to access birth control with no out-of-pocket costs in the last year alone. This has given women greater power over their health, their well-being, their futures, their reproductive decisions, and their finances.

Yet Mr. DUNCAN has attacked the birth control mandate repeatedly. He sought to leave a woman’s right to access affordable healthcare to the whims of her employer. Worse, he has absurdly denied that contraception is healthcare at all and has said the idea of contraception as a right is “disturbing.” It is a constitutional right. To him, it is disturbing. What kind of a judge will he be?

Despite what Kyle Duncan believes, birth control is healthcare. A woman’s access to it is a right, and his false, ideologically driven assaults are wrong.

I will oppose Kyle Duncan’s nomination to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my brief remarks before we vote on the nomination of Mr. Duncan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you.

Mr. President, in a few minutes, we are going to vote on the nomination of Mr. Kyle Duncan for a position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. Duncan was nominated by President Trump. He has been vetted—examined, if you will—extensively by the White House. He has been vetted—examined, if you will—extensively the Department of Justice. He has been vetted by the FBI. He has been vetted by the American Bar Association, and he has been vetted by the Senate’s Judiciary Committee. All of those entities have found that he is qualified—indeed, more than qualified—to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

If you look at his resume and his experience, you will understand why. Mr. Duncan clerked for the Honorable John Duhe on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. As you know, Federal clerkships are highly coveted, but judges generally pick the top students and the top members of their class. Mr. Duncan was picked.

He has an LL.M. from the Columbia University School of Law, one of the finest law schools in the world. Mr. Duncan is an honors graduate of LSU Law School and an honors graduate with a B.A. degree from Louisiana State University as well.

He has argued over 30 cases in Federal and State appellate courts. Some lawyers never argue a single one. He has briefed, prepared, and argued some 30 cases.

He served in the office of the attorney general in the State of Louisiana as appellate chief. He has represented my State in many high-profile cases, and he also has experience as an assistant solicitor general in the attorney general’s office in Texas.

Those who know Kyle and who have participated in the vetting process know that he is articulate, a careful thinker, and has a deep understanding of the importance of the separation of powers, and for that reason, he has been supported by a bipartisan group of both current and former lawyers.

I do not recognize the Kyle Duncan being described by some of my colleagues. I say this with all due respect. I think some of my colleagues, in criticizing Mr. Duncan, are confusing the role of the lawyer and the client.

I used to practice law. When a client came to me and said “Kennedy, I need you to represent me,” I did what they asked in that particular lawsuit. If his position was lawful, I would say: OK, tell me what your problem is and what your arguments are, and I will look at it from my standpoint and maybe supply some additional arguments under the law. But when my client described to me his problem and his analysis of it, I can’t remember a single time when I said: Oh, jeez, I don’t agree with you. I don’t like your politics. I just don’t agree with your position. I could have, but that was not my role as a lawyer. So long as what my client was proposing was legal, my role as their lawyer was that they were entitled to legal representation. My role was not to substitute my judgment for theirs.

I have listened to my colleagues’ criticism of Mr. Duncan. They don’t

know what his beliefs are, with all due respect. They have said: Well, in this case, he said that, and in this case he said that, and in this case over here, he said that, as though it was his point of view. They were his clients’ points of view.

Mr. Duncan has developed an expertise in constitutional law. He is a senior partner in a boutique firm. That means, of course, as you know, a smaller firm that has a specialty here in Washington, DC. Clients from all over the country and from all over the world come to him with constitutional law problems, and they ask him to litigate. They ask him to espouse their point of view—not Mr. Duncan’s point of view, but the client’s point of view. It is just not fair, it seems to me, to criticize a lawyer for doing what he is bound by our code of ethics and, indeed, the law to do.

If I didn’t think Kyle Duncan would call the balls and the strikes based on the rule of law that we cherish in America, I wouldn’t be standing here today, but he will. I would respectfully suggest that all of my colleagues put aside the politics, put aside whether they like President Trump, and look at this man for himself. What they will see is a very qualified, very successful lawyer who worships the rule of law and who will apply the law as this Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court have dictated.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Duncan nomination?

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Enzi	Kennedy
Barrasso	Ernst	Lankford
Blunt	Fischer	Lee
Boozman	Flake	Manchin
Burr	Gardner	McConnell
Capito	Graham	Moran
Cassidy	Grassley	Murkowski
Collins	Hatch	Perdue
Corker	Heller	Portman
Cornyn	Hoehn	Risch
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Crapo	Inhofe	Rounds
Cruz	Isakson	Rubio
Daines	Johnson	Sasse

Scott
Shelby
Sullivan

Thune
Tillis
Toomey

Wicker
Young

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NAYS—47

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Donnelly
Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Harris

Hassan
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Hirono
Jones
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Markey
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Nelson

Peters
Reed
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth McCain Paul

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 788, Mike Pompeo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Bob Corker.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 619, Richard Grenell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mitch McConnell, Cory Gardner, Orrin G. Hatch, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, John Boozman.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Dunkin nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I was reading a piece in the Wall Street Journal last week by Kevin Hassett, who was the Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. His piece made an important point that doesn't often come out as clearly as it

should, and that is that when American businesses benefit, American workers benefit. My friends on the other side of the aisle like to obfuscate that point.

Presumably they think they can gain political points by pitting businesses and workers against each other, as if benefits for businesses and benefits for workers were somehow diametrically opposed and as if, somehow, workers could thrive while businesses struggle.

As the piece I was reading pointed out, "In a modern competitive economy, workers do well when their employers do." If you think about it, it really is just common sense. The vast majority of working Americans work for businesses, whether they are self-employed, an employee of a small business, or an employee of a large corporation. For those employees to thrive, the businesses they are working for have to thrive as well.

Struggling businesses do not invest in workers; they can't. They don't hire new employees. They don't raise wages. They don't improve benefits.

On the other hand, thriving businesses do invest in their workers, they do hire new employees, they do raise wages, and they do improve benefits. Leaving aside the fact that most business owners want to invest in their workers, successful business owners have to invest in their workers if they want their businesses to keep thriving.

For starters, successful businesses tend to need new workers, and the way to attract new workers is with good wages, good opportunities, and good benefits. Once a successful business has good employees, it tends to want to keep them so that the business can keep prospering and thriving. How do businesses keep employees? The same way they attract them in the first place—with good wages, good opportunities, and good benefits.

As Mr. Hassett notes in the Wall Street Journal:

Research by economists Alan Krueger and Lawrence Summers, both of whom served in the Obama administration, shows that more-profitable employers pay higher wages. Any company that attempts to pay a worker less than he is worth will quickly lose that worker to a competitor. Thus, firms that want to thrive must invest in their plants and their workers.

Ask any business owner in the country, and he or she will tell you that it is a competitive labor market. Unemployment is at a 17-year low. In a tight, competitive labor market, employers have to work to keep their employees.

Our focus with last fall's tax reform was on making life better for ordinary Americans, so we set out to put more money in their pockets right away by cutting tax rates across the board, nearly doubling the standard deduction and doubling the child tax credit. As a result, for 2018, a family of four making \$73,000 will see a tax cut of more than \$2,000.

We knew the tax cuts, as helpful as they are, weren't enough. Americans also needed access to profitable careers, good jobs, good wages, and good

opportunities. We knew the only way to guarantee access to good jobs, good wages, and good opportunities was to make sure businesses were prosperous enough to create and maintain them. So when it came time for tax reform, we set out to improve the playing field for American workers by improving the playing field for businesses, as well, and it is working.

Companies are putting tax reform to work. They are investing in new equipment, expanding their facilities, and growing their lines of business, all of which mean more jobs and opportunities for Americans.

Most importantly, companies are passing along the benefits of tax reform. Company after company has announced pay raises, bonuses, 401(k) match increases, and other benefits for their workers. Others are passing tax savings on to their customers in the form of things like utility rate cuts.

The tax reform law has been in place only for 4 months. As businesses continue to see the benefits of tax reform, we can expect to see the playing field for workers continue to improve.

Ultimately, by helping American businesses thrive, tax reform will help give more Americans access to the kinds of jobs, wages, and opportunities that not only will benefit them right now but also will give them access to security and prosperity for the long term.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, before I close, I would like to take a couple of minutes to discuss the nomination of Mike Pompeo to be Secretary of State.

I don't need to tell anyone how incredibly qualified he is for this job: first in his class at West Point; 5 years of Active-Duty service in the Army, achieving the rank of captain; editor of the Harvard Law Review; elected to Congress four times by Kansas's Fourth Congressional District, serving on the House Intelligence Committee; and, finally, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Clearly, he has proved his dedication as a public servant and is an outstanding candidate for Secretary of State.

His nomination should be sailing through the Senate, and normally it would be. Prior to this Presidency, we were on a pretty bipartisan track for Secretary of State confirmations. Members of both parties believed it was important that a President have a national security team to support him, and they voted accordingly. John Kerry was confirmed as Secretary of State by a vote of 94 to 3. Hillary Clinton was confirmed as Secretary of State by a vote of 94 to 2. Condoleezza Rice was confirmed as Secretary of State by a vote of 85 to 13, and Colin Powell was confirmed as Secretary of State unanimously.

This doesn't mean that Republicans agreed with all of John Kerry's or Hillary Clinton's policies or that the Democrats agreed with all of Condoleezza Rice's or Colin Powell's

policies. But Members of both parties recognized that these nominees were qualified, and they believed that partisanship shouldn't play a role when it came to making sure the President had a national security team to support him.

Fast forward to today. Gone is the bipartisanship of the past. Today, Democrats are obstructing an entirely and eminently qualified candidate for Secretary of State for the sole reason that they don't like this President. They didn't get their way in the last election, and, in response, they have spent the last year or more obstructing one qualified nominee after another.

I get that the Democrats don't like President Trump, but when you are a Member of the U.S. Senate, you have to think beyond your own preferences and accept the fact that in a free country with free elections, sometimes you don't get your way.

Obstructing nominees has consequences. At the very least, delaying a President's ability to staff his administration diminishes his ability to serve the American people effectively, but that is not all. Obstructing certain nominees, such as a nominee for Secretary of State, can have consequences for our national security and diplomacy. An incomplete national security team is a detriment to the safety and security of our country.

Right now, the United States and our allies are currently facing a number of serious challenges from North Korea and an increasingly emboldened Iran to chemical attacks in Syria and the ever-present threat of terrorists. It is vital that the President have a fully equipped national security team to monitor and address these dangers. It is beyond irresponsible that Senate Democrats are compromising the President's ability to respond to threats simply because they prefer not to confirm anyone he has nominated.

Democrats should immediately drop their obstruction of Mike Pompeo and confirm him as Secretary of State, and they should stop obstructing other qualified national security nominees, such as Andrea Thompson, a native of my home State of South Dakota, who has been nominated as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

You would think Democrats would be content with their unprecedented obstruction of the President's nominees, but, unfortunately, there is another thing the Democrats are obstructing right now, and that is the Coast Guard reauthorization bill.

Once again, it is clear that Democrats are obstructing not because they have serious objections to the bill but because obstruction has become their default response to legislation in the Republican-led Congress.

Democrats claim that the Coast Guard reauthorization bill has not received sufficient input or debate, and that could not be further from the truth. A portion of the bill they are os-

tensibly concerned about is the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, or VIDA. It has been introduced in the last five Congresses, and more than one of those times it was introduced by Democrats.

The current version of the bill is the product of not just months but years of hearings, meetings, and negotiations. Despite the fact that this year's original version of VIDA had bipartisan support, we made a number of further concessions to address concerns that have been raised by Democratic Senators, but they just keep moving the goal posts. It has become pretty clear that Democrats' real objection is not to the bill itself but to working with Republicans or to seeing the President accomplish anything.

I hardly need to say the Coast Guard reauthorization bill is an important bill. It authorizes the Coast Guard's funding, as well as pay and benefits for Coast Guard personnel, who play a vital role in maintaining national security and law and order in the waters around the United States.

It would be nice if Democrats would consider dropping their partisan objections and working with Republicans to pass this essential piece of legislation and working with us to help get confirmed particularly critical national security nominees at a time when we face an array of threats across the entire planet.

Nominees like the Secretary of State, particularly well-qualified ones, are not to be trifled with. It is not a time to play politics when you are dealing with America's vital national security interests.

I hope that this Chamber, this body, will return to the tradition we have had in past administrations in which we have approved Secretaries of State, as I said earlier, by votes of 94 to 3, 94 to 2, 85 to 13, and unanimously. Those were the last four Secretaries of State. This has turned into a partisan game, if you will, at a time when our country really can't afford for us to play partisan games.

I hope when this vote comes up later this week, we will have a big bipartisan vote, consistent with our history and consistent with the fact that when you have a qualified nominee for an important position like this, this Senate comes together, takes very seriously its constitutional role in the confirmation process, and has that vote—hopefully, a big bipartisan vote in support of Mike Pompeo.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

NORTH KOREA

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I have been pleased to hear about the progress in the planned negotiations with North Korea over their nuclear program. I was glad to hear of Director Pompeo's successful visit to North Korea, and I, as much as anyone in this body, wishes the administration success in these talks and negotiations. Given the history of broken promises, I have my

doubts as to whether the North Korean regime has any genuine interest or willingness to denuclearize, but even a freeze will be welcome.

However, I am concerned about the language used by the President today when discussing the North Korean regime. To say that Kim Jong Un has been “very open” or “very honorable,” as the President did, surpasses understanding. If this description of one of the world’s strongman dictators were a singular event, a one-off statement, it could perhaps be excused as an aberration, but, unfortunately, it is not. It is part of a larger pattern of excusing dictatorial behavior that we should not countenance.

We need not sacrifice the truth and reject objective reality in pursuit of our goals. We cannot pretend that the Kim Jong Un of today is somehow different from the authoritarian dictator who has ruled over one of the most violent and repressive regimes on Earth.

I am happy to hear that the North Korean Government is apparently engaging as an honest broker in the process of arranging these talks, but I believe that how the President of the United States describes world leaders matters. For the President to describe a leader who stands credibly accused of starving his own people, violently executing his political opponents, and murdering members of his own family as “very open” and “very honorable” is beyond comprehension. Furthermore, it undermines the moral authority we have long possessed on the world stage.

The President himself has previously declared Kim Jong Un as “obviously a madman who doesn’t mind starving or killing his own people.” The President has also repeatedly and correctly referred to the North Korean regime’s violent torture of Otto Warmbier as “horrible.” The pursuit of these negotiations does not require that we surrender the values we stand for as a nation.

We cannot pretend the atrocities of the Northern Korean regime are a thing of the past. We need to enter these negotiations with our eyes wide open. We must understand and recognize who it is we are sitting across the table from. Only then do I believe we will actually succeed in these negotiations and emerge from this planned summit with the result we all seek—a safer world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DARK MONEY

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, there is an old saying that “there is no such thing as a free lunch,” but what about other things? What about free

Spanish language driver’s education classes? What about free backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and school supplies in the month before school starts? What about free financial wellness workshops, free turkeys in the week before Thanksgiving?

These things are all given away at events hosted by the LIBRE Initiative—a self-described grassroots organization dedicated to a “free and open society.” The events were held in Latino communities throughout the country, including Las Vegas, Miami, and Orlando.

People attending these events were asked to fill out a questionnaire. Questions included:

“Are you more likely to vote for a Republican or a Democrat in the 2016 election?”

“Do you feel the government should increase or decrease Federal spending in order to improve the economy?”

“What is your name, email address, and telephone number?”

People actually had to hand over their personal data in exchange for the free stuff. So the stuff wasn’t really free after all—but close enough, right?

Well, in a career spent as a prosecutor, I have learned one thing: Always follow the money. If you follow the money just one step back, you learn that LIBRE is a shell organization funded by Charles and David Koch, two of the most powerful men in American politics. Charles and David Koch are the owners of Koch Industries, a massive energy company that manufactures, distributes, and refines petroleum. Koch Industries is one of the largest privately held companies in the Nation, with estimated annual revenues of over \$100 billion.

What does all this mean? It means the Koch brothers are two very rich men, and there is nothing wrong with that. What is wrong is the way the Koch brothers use their money to hijack our democracy for their own benefit.

The Koch brothers are self-described radicals who believe the government should play no role in Americans’ lives. The Koch brothers believe in a world with no Medicare, no Social Security, no Federal minimum wage, no public programs that support families when they fall on hard times, and no rules preventing Koch Industries from polluting our air, drinking water, or our public lands.

The Koch brothers hate environmental regulations because Koch Industries is one of the top 10 worst polluters in the United States. Fewer environmental regulations mean the Koch brothers can obtain bigger financial gains.

To keep their empire afloat, the Koch brothers are not just polluting our environment, they are polluting our political system, and they are polluting our airways with false advertising.

The Kochs want Americans to believe climate change is a conspiracy, despite the global scientific consensus that cli-

mate change is caused by burning fossil fuels. Why would they want to cast doubt on scientific fact? Because the Koch brothers sell and burn fossil fuels for a living, and they believe protecting our environment is bad for their bottom line.

To protect their bottom line, the Kochs funnel money through a network of nonprofit organizations, foundations, and shell companies. These companies lobby the government, produce fake research reports, and run ad campaigns to manipulate and deceive the American people.

Buying a democracy does not come cheap, but the Koch brothers are not stingy. In 2010, the year Citizens United opened the floodgates for big money in politics, the Kochs spent \$125 million to support Republican candidates who pledged to roll back environmental and consumer protections.

Since the 2010 elections, their influence has grown. They have spent hundreds of millions of dollars supporting candidates who spread lies that climate change is a conspiracy, that immigrants cause crime, and that more money in the Koch brothers’ pocket means more money in yours.

Now, the Koch brothers have big plans for the upcoming 2018 election. They have announced they will spend \$400 million in the upcoming election cycle—their largest midterm election investment yet. Much of that money will be spent directly targeting Latinos through advertisements, events, and workshops.

The Koch brothers think they can buy the Latino vote, just like they bought the votes of the House Freedom Caucus and so many other Republican politicians, but despite what their ads say, the Koch brothers are not advocates for the Latino community. They are advocates for more money in their own pockets, nothing more.

The Koch brothers have supported some of the most anti-immigrant politicians in America, including LOUIE GOHMERT, Mike Pompeo, STEVE KING, Russell Pearce, and Kris Kobach. These are the men responsible for policies like Trump’s Muslim ban and Arizona’s anti-immigrant law, SB 1070.

The Koch brothers support politicians who want to end government funding for Planned Parenthood. If they get their way, Latinas would be hurt the most. More than 23 percent of Planned Parenthood patients are Latinas.

Latinas are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than women in any other racial or ethnic group. Planned Parenthood gives them access to annual screenings so they can stay healthy and cancer-free.

The Koch brothers support school choice, which they say gives Latino families more freedom in how they educate their kids, but school choice vouchers take money out of the public school system, causing many Latino kids whose parents can’t afford private schools to fall behind.

The Koch brothers are close allies of Betsy DeVos, our current Education Secretary. Her claim to fame is her role in dragging Michigan's public education system to the bottom of national rankings and leaving thousands of students without access to a quality education.

To make matters worse, the Kochs are working to undermine access to health insurance for working people. Latinos are less likely to have health insurance than any other racial or ethnic group. Without health insurance, a trip to the ER can result in a bill so expensive that a family can't pay their rent for months.

Organizations like LIBRE will tell you their agenda is designed to promote freedom and self-sufficiency. They put out propaganda implying that Democrats don't believe in freedom because we believe government has a role in protecting access to affordable healthcare, clean water, air, and quality schools. The Koch brothers love freedom, but their freedom is to pollute our rivers, streams, and our air.

Democrats believe in a different kind of freedom—the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water, the freedom to walk away from a trip to the ER without a medical bill that costs more than what you make in a year, and the freedom to walk into Planned Parenthood and walk out with information you need to make your own reproductive choices.

We don't believe in the kind of freedom that allows Charles and David Koch to pull the strings of our democracy. How can anyone call that freedom at all?

What the Koch brothers and their web of dark money organizations like LIBRE are really doing is deceiving Latinos and supporting the very same politicians who are working against Latino families.

So, this year, as the Koch brothers are pulling out their checkbooks to fund their disinformation campaign, follow the money. Follow the money to find out who is paying for that glossy ad you see on TV. Follow the money that flows through LIBRE and other Koch-backed organizations to politicians who vote against immigrants, Dreamers, and refugees.

The Koch brothers have spent millions of dollars funding Tea Party candidates in Congress—the main obstacles to immigration reform. What good are school supplies and driver's education classes and free health checkups if parents of American citizens are getting deported, if schools in our communities are being gutted, and if community health clinics are closing their doors?

The Latino community in Nevada, and in communities of color across America, are strong, resilient, and diverse. We will not be fooled by false advertising.

So many of our family members came to this country because they knew what it was like to live under the

rule of oligarchs and elites. They came here because they wanted to have the freedom to pursue their dreams.

Charles and David Koch want to buy Latino votes, buy our voices, and buy our democracy, which folks like my dad Manny Cortez worked all of their lives to protect.

But I believe in the wisdom of the American people. I believe in the wisdom of our voters who will fight the lies, just as they did in Nevada 2 years ago. I have seen the Kochs' power and influence firsthand. They spent \$10 million trying to defeat me in 2016. They threw millions into LIBRE to buy off Latino voters in Nevada. But they failed because Democrats in Congress continued to beat the drum and make voters aware of the lies, and I will keep fighting to do the same in the Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his bold leadership and continuing the fight to rid our political system of dark money.

All across our country, teachers are taking to the streets to demand what no teacher should ever have to ask for: fair pay and decent benefits. In State after State, education has been cut to the bone. They have even cut the bone. Kids are crammed into overcrowded classrooms. They are handed tattered textbooks. Their teachers are paid so little that some qualify for food stamps. In fact, salaries are so low in some States that teachers are working two, three, and sometimes four jobs just to make ends meet.

Many people don't know this, but teachers have always had a very special place in my heart. As a little girl growing up in Oklahoma, there was one person I admired more than anyone else in the world—my second grade teacher, Mrs. Lee. I will never forget the day that Mrs. Lee took me aside and explained that if I worked hard, I could become a teacher too. Those words changed my life. Today, I am the daughter of a maintenance man, who became a teacher, a professor, and a U.S. Senator because America invested in teachers like Mrs. Lee, and that meant investing in the thousands of students she reached through the years. I am grateful to that America. I believe in that America. But I will be honest—I am scared to death that our children and grandchildren may never know that America.

Right now, in one of the richest nations on the planet, American teachers are getting crushed. I want to tell you about one of those teachers—Jonathan Moy, or Mr. Moy, as his students call

him. He is a teacher in Oklahoma. Every week, Mr. Moy juggles six jobs in addition to teaching. Mr. Moy coaches two sports teams, drives for Uber and Lyft, drives a schoolbus, and umpires a Little League team so that he can provide for his two daughters.

Sadly, Mr. Moy's story is becoming all too common. According to one estimate, teachers are five times more likely than other workers to have a second job. No wonder teachers are taking to the streets in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Arizona. They have had enough.

I am standing shoulder to shoulder with teachers across the country because they deserve better, because our children deserve better, and because investment in teachers is an investment in our kids and ultimately an investment in our future. Like many of my colleagues in this Chamber and fellow Democrats across the country, I am in this fight for the long haul, but if we are to be successful, if we ever hope we can prevail, we should be clear-eyed about what it is that we are up against.

The perilous state of affairs for education funding in our States is not the simple result of a bunch of legislatures who, after listening to their constituents, decided against supporting public education. No, the movement of teacher protests sweeping the country has revealed corruption—corruption that Republican-controlled States have been sweeping under the rug for decades.

The steep cuts to education are the product of an all-out assault on our teachers and our schools that has been launched by a handful of billionaires. One of the principal tools rich and powerful people use is dark money. They have created an invasive enemy that slithers out of sight, with only a glimpse here or there, but make no mistake—this dark money has helped shape the anti-teacher, anti-worker agenda that undermines our democracy.

For decades, billionaires have been pouring unlimited, secret money into the hands of carefully picked candidates who will do their bidding. We often talk about the influence dark money has right here in Washington, but the truth is, the real battle is being fought at the State and local level.

Consider the State Policy Network, SPN. It is an umbrella alliance of over 60 member organizations covering nearly every State in the United States. Their member organizations hide behind deceptively apolitical names, such as the Platte Institute for Economic Research or the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy. These organizations are anything but apolitical; these groups are the propaganda arm of rightwing billionaires. The State Policy Network, for example, is bankrolled by the Koch brothers through organizations like DonorsTrust, one of the Kochs' favorite investment arms. In 2016 alone, DonorsTrust made \$20.3 million in

grants to State Policy Network members.

In addition to affiliates, the State Policy Network has over 80 associate members. It is a who's who of right-wing Koch-funded groups, such as the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation, the Cato Institute, and the Heritage Foundation. Their funders also include an array of the biggest and most powerful corporations, including tobacco giant Philip Morris, food giant Kraft, and pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline.

The goal of the State Policy Network and its myriad affiliates is to trick the public into thinking they are genuine, unbiased think tanks researching public policy issues—think that, instead of rightwing, billionaire-funded groups dedicated to hijacking every legislature in America and passing laws that work for their corporations while they leave everyone else behind.

With friends like the aggressively anti-union Koch brothers, it should come as no surprise that one of the State Policy Network's top priorities is dismantling public sector unions. In a 2016 fundraising letter, the State Policy Network stated that its goal was to "defund and defang" government unions, and it bragged about the work of its affiliates to supply "intellectual ammunition" to weaken unions in States across the country. It touted its work in West Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, in shepherding passage of laws that make it harder for unions to collect union dues that cover the costs of collective bargaining.

Although it focuses on State policy, the State Policy Network's agenda can have nationwide effects. Just look at the Supreme Court case *Janus v. AFSCME*, which will determine whether public sector unions that represent teachers, nurses, firefighters, and police officers in States and cities around this country will actually be able to collect fees from workplaces they represent—fees that allow them to negotiate for better pay, better wages, and better working conditions. The Illinois Policy Institute, a State Policy Network affiliate, works closely with the groups pushing the Court to cut off unions' funding and force them to represent workers who do not pay dues.

The State Policy Network's attack on the workers is just one prong of a much larger campaign to hand government over to the rich and powerful. As one of the many tentacles of the Koch network, the State Policy Network also works to gut environmental protections that prevent big corporations from poisoning our water, our food, and our air. It works to dismantle Medicaid and other healthcare protections that provide vulnerable, low-income individuals with basic healthcare. It works to slash income and other State taxes that provide critical funds for basic government services. It works to weaken public pensions that provide government workers with financial security and retirement.

Billionaires and special interests are conspiring to buy our political system. We cannot allow this to happen. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues in support of bills like the DISCLOSE Act to shine a light on the dark web of billionaires who have their hands tightly gripped around the neck of our democracy. Our government should belong to the people, not to wealthy special interests.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, borrowing from a phrase from Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, "It is time to wake up to the threat of climate change." We must open our eyes to the insidious web of deceit that the Koch brothers, in alliance with the Trump Administration, are weaving to promote an anti-science, anti-consumer, and anti-renewable energy agenda. This web of deceit is something that the Koch brothers are proud of.

Just last week, they bragged to donors in a report that they were responsible for President Trump's policies: repealing the Clean Power Plan, check; attacking public lands, check; attempting to gut bedrock environmental laws for infrastructure projects, check; leaving the Paris climate accord, check; tax giveaways to Big Oil and other fossil fuel corporations, check-plus.

The first year of the Trump Administration has been a Koch brothers wish list, and they are popping their champagne bottles all the way to the bank. In fact, the various front groups and trade organizations that pushed President Trump to exit the Paris climate accord accepted almost \$7 million from the Koch brothers directly. Those groups took millions more from other anti-climate groups, which were also funded by the Koch brothers. It is a tangled web they weave with their money. That is what the Koch brothers have bought—a network of individuals, shady front groups, and partisan organizations whose sole purpose is to undermine the policies that protect Americans and the planet from climate change.

Like a real spider web, it is hard to see this web of deceit unless the light catches it in just the right way. I am going to shine a light on a few threads of this web tonight, the threads that make up the effort to undermine the scientific consensus on climate change: the Koch brothers and their CO₂ Coalition. One of these threads is the CO₂ Coalition. This group, founded in 2015 with the remains of the defunct George C. Marshall Institute, pushed a single mantra: "Carbon dioxide, a nutrient vital for life."

The CO₂ Coalition started where the George C. Marshall Institute, another Koch-backed front group, left off—disseminating disinformation, particularly around global warming.

Total funding from the Koch-related foundations for the CO₂ Coalition is more than \$650,000 since 2004. In addition to the Kochs, the billionaire conservative Mercer family also gave the CO₂ Coalition \$150,000 in 2016. And that is just what we know of.

For those not familiar, the board of the CO₂ Coalition includes the controversial physicist William Happer, who has testified in front of Congress multiple times to push climate denialism and the self-serving interest of the fossil fuel industry and the Koch brothers.

When I was chairman of the House Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming, Dr. Happer advocated in testimony for the government to support an "alternative hypothesis," which amounted to denial of climate change. This "alternative hypothesis" was the grandfather of another familiar term, the Trump Administration's so-called alternative facts—"alternative hypothesis."

During those years that I was the chairman of the Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming and the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I conducted nearly 100 hearings. They went on for hours and hours. We are talking of 200, 300 hours of hearings where we were able to hear these crackpot theories that were enunciated and debunked at that time. Despite his views on climate science being routinely debunked, including what happened in my hearing back then, Dr. Happer continues to be called as an "expert witness" by Republicans in Congress. From this platform, he spreads doubt and misinformation about climate change. He has called carbon dioxide "a benefit to the Earth," an absurd assertion that is in complete contrast to the findings of the EPA and the vast majority of climate scientists. That is because in its materials, the CO₂ Coalition states that it has the express purpose of "educating thought leaders, policy makers, and the public about the important contribution made by carbon dioxide to our lives and the economy."

In reality, the CO₂ Coalition writes articles, produces videos, and uses this content to spread lies about climate change through social media. They seek not to inform but to deform consensus scientific views at the bidding of their fossil fuel funders, the Koch brothers.

Here is some information about carbon dioxide that the CO₂ Coalition fails to mention in its love letter to fossil fuels. Every ton of carbon we emit costs us \$36—that is the social cost of carbon—the cost to all of us of emitting an extra ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

That carbon pollution is endangering human health, and it costs us money as a society to treat the damage it does to the health of our planet and the people who live on the planet. Carbon pollution is not a vital nutrient for life, as the CO₂ Coalition asserts. It is a dangerous pollutant for our society when it is inside of our atmosphere at dangerous levels—at dangerous levels. The CO₂ Coalition is certainly not the only fossil fuel supported group that is weaving this web of deceit. Especially when it comes to talking about the importance of the “free market,” fossil fuel-funded climate deniers often have selective memory loss.

The Lexington Institute, which has received funding from fossil fuel companies like ExxonMobil, insists that renewables can't compete in the free market with fossil fuels without Federal subsidies. That assumes that the fossil fuel industry has succeeded in the free market all on its own. It has not. Adam Smith is spinning in his grave, wondering how the fossil fuel industry gets such subsidies. As a matter of fact, he is spinning so fast that he would qualify for a subsidy under the tax policies, which Republicans put in place.

Federal subsidies for the fossil fuel industry are more than 100 years old and account for nearly \$15 billion each year. Subsidizing an oil company to drill oil or a coal company to mine is like paying a fish to swim or a bird to fly. You don't have to do it. The tax breaks for the oil and gas industries are permanent pieces of the Tax Code. These payouts automatically continue year after year—forever, into infinity. They never decrease. They never go away. That is certainly not the case for renewable energy industries, like solar and wind. These industries have had to endure the uncertainty of not knowing if their tax breaks will expire. Now tax breaks for wind are scheduled to end completely next year. That will never happen to a fossil fuel break. The tax breaks for solar will end in 2021, but for the fossil fuel industry, those tax breaks will never come off the books because they fight against special tax breaks for wind and solar. Oh, my goodness. Who would want to help them? In fact, in its taking \$15 billion a year every year for 100 years and 100 more years into infinity—completely distorting the free market with the support of fossil fuel companies like ExxonMobil—the Lexington Institute is spinning its strand of the web of deceit by trying to stop a renewables revolution.

The Koch brothers and their fossil fuel allies aren't doing this alone. They have found their most ardent ally in their campaign to attack climate science in President Donald Trump. Throughout the Trump administration, there has been a concerted effort to deny, to delay, and to defund the science of climate change in an unprecedented way. Just look at the President's Big Oil all-star Cabinet. At one

point, we had former Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State. We still have former Governor of oil-rich Texas Rick Perry at the Department of Energy. Oklahoma's oil oligarch Scott Pruitt is heading the Environmental Protection Agency. All of these oil allies have voiced doubts about the existence of climate change and the role of humans in causing it, but no one is doing more to help anchor the various strands of the web of deceit on climate science in the Trump administration than the EPA's Scott Pruitt.

Mr. Pruitt announced today a new proposed rule purporting to “strengthen transparency and validity in regulatory science.” What exactly does this new secret science rule really mean? The proposal would actually do the opposite of what its name suggests. This proposal would actually restrict the use of scientific research that EPA officials can use in crafting new regulations under the guise of so-called transparency. The Trump administration would allow the EPA to consider research studies for which the underlying data are publicly available. What this proposed change would really do is effectively block the Agency from relying on longstanding, important studies like those that link lead exposure to devastating neurological damage.

Scott Pruitt, at the behest of Big Oil and interests like the Koch brothers, wants to deny EPA scientists access to critical information in order to shield polluters, such as coal and chemical companies. Today, as Pruitt ceremoniously announced his new rule, he was accompanied by—wait for it—William Happer of the CO₂ Coalition. The web of deceit is very real. No matter what Scott Pruitt tries to undo at the EPA, no matter what science President Trump tries to deny through the Federal Government, no matter what groups the Koch brothers try to fund, the truth is all too clear. Climate change is happening now.

Last year, we experienced a record \$16 billion in storms—extreme weather events—and climate-related disasters. It was more than in any year in recorded history. Hurricanes ravaged Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico. The recovery from Hurricane Harvey alone is projected to cost \$180 billion. That is the damage even as the Republicans fight to take the wind and solar tax breaks off the books. This year, in Massachusetts, we already experienced four Northeasters before the end of March. Three of those storms cost more than \$1 billion. That is the earliest in any year ever recorded that we have experienced three storms with this magnitude of devastation. The cost of these storms speaks for itself. We simply can't afford to deny the impacts and reality of climate change anymore.

Our greatest weapon in fighting deceit and tearing down this web is sunlight—the sunlight of truth and the sunlight that is fueling the solar revolution. It is a clean energy revolution that is fueling blue-collar job creation

and our economy, and it is happening all across this country and around the globe. Renewable energy is the greatest force for blue-collar job creation in the history of the United States.

Right now, wind and solar are generating 7 to 8 percent of the electricity we consume every day in the United States. Right now, we have more than 90,000 megawatts of wind. We have more than 50,000 megawatts of solar installed in the United States. By 2020, we are projected to have 120,000 megawatts of wind. We will have more than 90,000 megawatts of solar. Solar is projected to add an additional 35,000 combined megawatts in 2021 and 2022. That means, by the end of 2022, we could have over 250,000 megawatts of wind and solar installed in the United States.

You can see what is happening now with wind and solar after it had been, essentially, stopped by the fossil fuel industry for 100 years. This could have happened 50 years ago. This could have happened 100 years ago. Yet now, finally, because of Democratic policies, we have been able to finally unleash this revolution.

What is accompanying that wind and solar revolution? It is jobs, blue-collar jobs. We now have 350,000 Americans who are working in wind and solar. By 2020, we are going to have 500,000 workers in wind and solar. The majority of our solar jobs—137,000—is of electricians. There are roofers doing the installation. There are 38,000 jobs in manufacturing. These are good blue-collar jobs. There are 25,000 of our wind jobs in manufacturing while 35,000 are in construction, development, and transportation. These are good-paying, blue-collar jobs.

Why is this renewable revolution unstoppable? Why is this job creation that is good for all of creation unstoppable? It is because the cost of renewables is plummeting. The cost of solar has fallen 50 to 60 percent over the last 5 to 6 years. The cost of wind has fallen 66 percent since 2009. In fact, wind and solar are generally cheaper than coal and nuclear energy are right now. Coal is losing the war against wind and solar in the free market. It is not a conspiracy against coal. It is competition for coal that has finally emerged. That is what is happening. Coal is losing in the marketplace.

This is not just happening in the United States. It is happening around the entire world. Mexico had a power auction at the end of November at which the average price for solar was 1.9 cents per kilowatt hour. In 2017, solar in Saudi Arabia came in at 1.8 cents per kilowatt hour. In Dubai, it was 2.4 cents per kilowatt hour. Half of all electricity installed around the world last year was renewable. Renewable energy deployment around the world has increased by 8 percent a year for 7 years in a row.

This is a global clean energy race, and it is a global job creation race. The Koch brothers and their fossil fuel allies want to take the United States of

America out of this revolution. Global temperatures are rising, but the cost of renewables is plummeting. There is no denying the science of climate change or the mathematics behind the renewable revolution.

For decades, the Koch brothers have perpetrated a fraud on the American people about climate change. They have worked to discredit science in order to sow doubt. They are funding a web of deceit that spreads misinformation and undermines the urgency needed to address the generational challenge of climate change. We must fight back with education, with urgency, with facts, and, ultimately, with action.

That is why, this week, I am introducing, with my colleagues here in the Senate and in the House, the Climate Change Education Act. This legislation would promote climate literacy by broadening students' understanding of climate change, the consequences of climate change, and the potential solutions. This bill would give students, teachers, and families the tools they need to protect our planet for future generations. We must take the climate deniers and their fossil fuel funders to task for their opposition to the clean energy opportunities that could win the battle against climate change.

We have a chance to unleash a clean energy revolution that creates jobs as it cuts dangerous carbon pollution. We are on the floor today to cut down this tangled web of deceit—to shine a light on the lies that emanate from this Koch brothers-funded web of deceit that has tried its best to stop this clean energy revolution.

As you can see, this revolution has taken off in the United States as it has taken off around the rest of the planet, and it will not be denied. The green generation, the young generation in our country, will not be denied. They want to see a wind and solar and all-electric vehicle revolution take place that will change the course of history. That is why we are out here today—to let the rest of the world know we are in this fight, and we are going to win it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I will focus, as Senator MARKEY has and several of my colleagues before me, on this web of deceit we have been talking about here today—the Koch brothers' web of dark money, lobbyists, and infiltration into the Trump administration that truly threatens our democracy. The influence of their hundreds of millions of dollars is pervasive, pernicious, and hidden.

I applaud Senator WHITEHOUSE's work that focuses the public's attention on this threat. Thank you to my colleagues for shining a spotlight on the murky tentacles of the Koch influence empire here in Washington, especially its influence on the swamp that is the Trump administration. We must keep fighting for comprehensive cam-

paign finance and electoral reform to get dark money like the Koch brothers' out of our politics.

The Koch family business started in oil, and Koch Industries is still heavily invested in petroleum and petroleum products. Its subsidiary, Flint Hills Resources, owns three oil refineries. The Koch Pipeline Company owns and operates 4,000 miles of pipeline that transports oil, refined petroleum, and natural gas throughout six States. Koch Industries is the largest foreign and American leaseholder in Canada's oil sands, possibly leasing up to 2 million acres.

As well, each year, Koch Industries markets, trades, and manages logistics for tons of coal and petroleum coke. Koch Industries makes billions from oil, gas, and coal, and it is no secret it is willing to spend millions to keep it that way. Two organizations formed through the Koch brothers' vast wealth are the Institute for Energy Research and its lobbying arm, the American Energy Alliance. Both Koch-funded groups are anti-renewable, pro-fossil fuel, and climate change deniers.

The Institute is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in 1989 from a predecessor directed by Charles Koch and Robert Bradley, Jr. Mr. Bradley led public policy for Enron before its scandal and bankruptcy. He founded the Institute and remains its CEO. He is also affiliated with the Koch-funded Cato Institute and Competitive Enterprise Institute.

The Alliance is the Institute's political arm, a 501(c)(4) organization, founded in 2008. The 501(c)(4)s are political organizations. They don't have to disclose their donors. They can engage in all sorts of politicking and lobbying, and they can spend unlimited amounts of money. The Alliance shares office space and staff—including a president—with the Institute. Their joint president is Thomas Pyle, who had previously lobbied for Koch Industries. They receive funding directly and not so directly from the Koch brothers. Since 2008, one or the other has received funding from the Charles Koch Institute, an anti-government group formed from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation; Freedom Partners, called the Koch brothers' "secret" bank—a 501(c)(6) organization that gives tens of millions of dollars to extreme causes; the Wellspring Committee, Inc., funded with the Koch brothers' help; DonorsTrust, a pass-through organization for the Koch brothers and other ultrawealthy donors trying to hide contributions; and many other like-minded anti-renewable, pro-fossil fuel groups that the Koch brothers fund or are tied to.

Between 2010 and 2014, the Institute and Alliance received more than \$5 million in Koch-related funding. The Institute and Alliance are in the business of discrediting renewable energy, promoting fossil fuels, and denying climate science under the guise of providing independent analysis. Their

staffs have appeared before State regulatory commissions giving "expert" testimony, claiming that renewable energy is too expensive and unreliable and that States should not increase their renewable portfolio requirements and that fossil fuels—even coal—are more economical.

In 2013, for example, their director of regulatory and State affairs, Daniel Simmons, claimed in a Michigan regulatory hearing that the electricity rates of States with renewable requirements are 27 percent higher than States without a renewable standard. That same year, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that the incremental rate of renewable portfolio standards was 2 percent, and a report by the Michigan Public Service Commission found that the cost of renewable sources is declining and is cheaper than the new coal-fired generation.

Also in 2013, Mr. Simmons attacked a Federal clean energy standard bill introduced by my fellow New Mexican, Senator Jeff Bingaman, which I cosponsored. Mr. Simmons had the audacity to claim that carbon dioxide emissions from powerplants should not be counted as pollutants, arguing "that carbon dioxide itself is not dirty." Mr. Simmons' cynical attack on climate science is frightening.

In 2015, the Alliance called on Congress to eliminate the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy. The office's mission is to support transitioning to "a global clean energy economy," something that we know is supported by many, many people. That year, both Koch brothers' organizations received \$3 million from the web of Koch donors.

Although the Institute and Alliance were fringe, the Trump administration placed their staff in key energy positions, beginning with appointing their president to lead the energy transition team. Before that appointment, Mr. Pyle had sent a fundraising letter touting the new administration's positions. He predicted the Trump administration would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, repeal the Clean Power Plan, move forward with the Keystone XL Pipeline, increase oil and gas leasing on Federal lands, lift the moratorium on coal leasing on Federal lands, and turn back protection of our rivers and streams—among other initiatives. Mr. Pyle's policy predictions have sadly come to pass.

My home State of New Mexico is right in the bull's-eye of climate change. Snowpack was at a low point this year. Parts of the Rio Grande are dry. We have a methane cloud in the Four Corners area the size of Delaware. Pressing "stop" on tackling climate change hurts New Mexicans.

Meanwhile, Institute/Alliance staff landed three plum positions within the Department of Energy. Last May, Mr. Simmons, whom we have already heard about, was actually placed to lead the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy—the same office the

Alliance advocated to eliminate. Talk about the fox guarding the chicken coop.

An Institute/Alliance policy analyst, Alex Fitzsimmons, was also placed in the same office as a senior adviser. He has steadily beat the Koch brothers' drum against wind and solar energy, writing numerous articles about their alleged unreliability and high costs. How can he possibly contribute to the office's mission of transitioning to a clean energy economy?

Predictably, the President proposed slashing the office's budget for 2018 by 69 percent. Congress did not do his bidding. He now seeks to cut over 70 percent of its budget in 2019, including fully eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program. According to DOE, since 2010, New Mexico has received \$10.4 million from these two programs. These investments resulted in weatherizing 1,300 homes, creating or retaining 340 jobs, training 19,500 New Mexicans in energy efficiency, and retrofitting 240,000 square feet of building space. These two programs aid my State in the global battle against climate change and should not be on the chopping block.

Another Institute/Alliance policy analyst, Travis Fisher, was tapped by DOE to oversee an evaluation on whether renewables are hurting coal and nuclear power and increasing grid unreliability. Mr. Fisher had also authored many pieces on the evils of renewables—even calling clean energy policies “the single greatest emerging threat” to the power grid. There was wide concern the report would be politically skewed.

However, a draft of the report, prepared by an independent contractor and DOE career staff, got out. That draft concluded renewable energy had not decreased grid reliability. The final report then concluded the same. Mr. Fisher has since left DOE.

The good news is that the American people continue to support renewable energy. A Pew Research Center poll found 83 percent of Americans think expanding renewables is a “top” or “important” national priority.

Wind and solar are expanding exponentially and their costs have decreased dramatically. Twenty-nine States, Washington, DC, and three territories have renewable portfolio standards, and eight States and one territory have renewable goals.

A clean energy economy is the future, but the Trump administration is fighting against the tide. Before the Trump administration, the Institute and Alliance were small fringe organizations promoted by the Koch brothers' web of secret organizations and veiled allies. They now sit at the center of our government.

At the bottom of the Koch labyrinth of 501(c)(3)s, 501(c)(4)s, 501(c)(6)s, and their wealth of accomplices is their ability to hide their contributions and actions from public view. The Supreme

Court's Citizens United decision cloaks these networks under the guise of the First Amendment. Citizens United has damaged our democracy by allowing unlimited campaign contributions, PACs, and nonprofit organizations to secretly influence government decisions at the highest levels.

I have been fighting to overturn Citizens United and for Congress to enact campaign finance reform for years now. My constitutional amendment would not only overturn Citizens United but all the previous bad decisions going back to *Buckley v. Valeo*. It would end the misguided belief that spending money to elect politicians is the same thing as free speech—a belief that gives the Koch brothers a lot more speech than the average American.

Last fall, I reintroduced the We the People Democracy Reform Act, which would enact comprehensive electoral reform. The dark influence of the Koch brothers in this administration only underscores the pressing need for this legislation to right our democracy and restore integrity, accountability, and transparency to our political system.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the Senate this evening to talk about the nominees who will be up for a confirmation vote.

The first of those is Ric Grenell. Ric is being nominated to serve as our Ambassador to Germany during an important time, not just with the danger and volatility around the world but with our relationship with Germany. Ric is well qualified, and I think it is urgent that we get him confirmed.

Ric Grenell was actually nominated last fall. He was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee with a positive vote on October 26, 2017. So for 6 months, he has been in limbo, even after getting reported out of committee. He has been blocked by just a couple of Democrats—I think maybe just one—and this body has not had a chance to vote on him.

That is why I was pleased to see today that the majority leader filed cloture, and that is why we will get a vote this week on Mr. Grenell. I assume that he will get supported by a majority of this body, but I hope it is not just a bare majority because I think he is very qualified for the position.

He is someone who has a lot of experience in diplomacy and international issues. In 2001, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Director of Communications and Public Diplomacy for the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In this role, he advised four of our Ambassadors—John Negroponte, John Danforth, John Bolton, and Ambassador Khalilzad—on the formulation and articulation of U.S. policy at the United Nations. He was also appointed by John Danforth to be the Alternative Representative of the United States to

the U.N. Security Council with full voting rights and privileges. He served as spokesman there during a turbulent time, an important time. But he also did more than that. He was appointed to be a U.S. delegate to a variety of United Nations conferences over the years, including the Financing for Development Conference, the World Food Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Iraq Donor Conference, the Preparatory Committee for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review, the High-Level Meeting on Ending HIV/AIDS, and the Commission on Population and Development, among many others.

He has moderated a lot of United Nations panel discussions over the years on subjects ranging from Children and Armed Conflict to post-war construction issues, clean energy solutions that my colleague was talking about a moment ago. He is up to speed on the world's pressing issues, so he is very well qualified to be an Ambassador representing the United States.

He has also been an active speaker, speaking on topics around the country that relate to crisis communications, the United Nations, and international issues ranging from Sudan to North Korea and Middle Eastern issues.

He has been on a lot of TV programs. This is one reason he has generated some controversy on the other side. Yes, he has spoken his mind on occasion, but he is also someone, again, if you look at his qualifications and experience and his abilities—as he did for President George W. Bush—to be a team player and work with the team to communicate clearly, he is an excellent candidate to be a U.S. Ambassador to just about anywhere but particularly to a country as important as Germany.

He received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Finally, I would say the timing is really important. One reason it is key that we vote this week is that we need an Ambassador to Germany.

Over the Easter break I was in Germany. I was meeting with our troops over there on a factfinding mission. We have a lot of American troops in Germany still. We were looking at some of the weapons systems that have been developed in my home State of Ohio and how they are working. The people I talked to—our U.S. military officers but also German officials and others—were saying that it is important to have American leadership in Germany right now with all that is going on, with what is happening in Ukraine—Germany is a key player in keeping the European Union together—what is happening in the Middle East, where they play an important role, and what is happening in terms of our economy and trade issues. I heard from everyone: Why don't you send an ambassador over here? So it is time we do it.

Finally, there is a particular urgency this week, because Chancellor Merkel

is actually coming for a visit to Washington later this week. I think she will be here on Friday at the White House in meetings, and wouldn't it be great if we were to confirm this qualified Ambassador to represent our interests in Germany and to begin the process of improving our relationship with Germany and deepening that relationship.

I hope we have the opportunity to have this vote in the next couple of days, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a look at Ric Grenell's background. I don't think you will find one of the Ambassadors who is a noncareer Foreign Service person to be a better person on some of these tough foreign policy issues, and I think he will do an excellent job for us in Germany.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, the second nominee I would like to talk about briefly is one who has also faced some opposition from the other side of the aisle, to the point that he was reported out of committee last night on a pure party-line vote—an 11-to-10 vote. I wish that weren't the case. I want to thank Senator COONS for actually voting "present" so that Senator ISAKSON's vote could count.

I think Mike Pompeo, who is the current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is extremely well qualified.

When you look at what has happened historically with regard to the job of Secretary of State, this body has been able to support people who they may not agree with on every policy issue or may not agree with the President who appointed that person, but they realize that a President should be able to have his or her own person—particularly in that job—be the Secretary of State, be the diplomat to the United States around the world. As a result, with regard to Senator Kerry, who was a colleague of ours here, when he was up for his confirmation vote, the vote was 94 Senators out of 100 supporting him. With regard to Secretary Clinton, when she was nominated, she was confirmed by a vote of 94 Senators—94 out of 100 voted for her. That has been more or less typical. Colin Powell actually was confirmed by a unanimous vote of this body after he became the nominee for Secretary of State. Condoleezza Rice got an overwhelming majority; I think it was in the mideighties.

I would hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would look at Mr. Pompeo's background and his qualifications. I don't think they can dispute the fact that he is qualified for this job.

This is a man who has been successful in everything he has done. From humble beginnings, he went to West Point. He graduated at the top of his class. Then, as an Army officer, he was in Germany before the wall came down. He was an officer in Germany patrolling the Iron Curtain. He then went to law school after having served in the military. He went to Harvard Law

School and ended up being an editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. That is pretty impressive. It is hard to do.

He then went into business. He was successful there, including businesses that had to do with national security issues.

He then ran for the House of Representatives and was elected. He was on the Intelligence Committee in the House, and so he has the ability to get well-versed on a lot of the classified information needed to be able to understand the danger and volatility we face in this world today. He is well-regarded in the House on both sides of the aisle.

He was then nominated by the President to serve as CIA Director. By the way, he was confirmed by this same body as CIA Director by a vote of 66 Senators, so it was a nice bipartisan majority. I hope that happens again.

Again, I think it is very important that we get a Secretary of State in place at this critical time but also that we get one in place who is shown to have some of the momentum, trust, and confidence of this body. Certainly the President has a lot of confidence in him, or he wouldn't have nominated him for this additional responsibility.

As CIA Director, he has become well-versed on all the issues. One issue I will mention that you have heard about recently is that he recently went on a secret mission to meet with the dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, and he did that at the behest of the President to help prepare for a successful meeting between the President and the North Koreans. We all hope that meeting is indeed constructive and ends up making progress on the denuclearization—which all of us hope for—of the Korean Peninsula. You need somebody like Mike Pompeo there to help direct that. So I think it is the right time for him to move forward on a number of issues, and that certainly is one.

Another issue I will say I am very interested in working with him on is what is happening in Eastern Europe and Central Europe—the destabilizing effect that Russia is having with regard to what is called the hybrid war—in other words, disinformation and propaganda—and also the military part of this, which is happening on the eastern border of Ukraine.

Russia, as you recall, took Crimea away from Ukraine. In my discussions with Mike Pompeo, he understands that issue and he gets that issue. He has supported providing weapons to Ukrainians so they can defend themselves, lethal but defensive weapons. That was a big change from the last administration and, frankly, from the first year of this administration. It happened recently. Those materials are now being delivered, and the Ukrainians—having been there over the Easter break—are feeling a renewed sense of support from their Western allies, particularly from the United

States. I think Mike Pompeo is the right guy to be there with regard to that issue also.

I have taken the leadership role on this issue of pushing back against the disinformation, including the meddling in our own election here, which I believe happened and I believe will happen again unless we are smarter about pushing back. That is why I have joined with my colleagues—Senator MURPHY on the other side of the aisle and others—to promote this idea of a center at the State Department that coordinates all the U.S. Government efforts here, which are needed, and particularly focuses on the online effort and the need for us to be more aggressive and robust in our response. It is called the Global Engagement Center. Again, I have had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Pompeo privately but also in public testimony about this issue, and he has expressed his strong support for that Global Engagement Center and for having a more effective and robust response.

I think Mike Pompeo is the right person at the right time. I think he is qualified for this job as well as anyone out there I can imagine. Again, in talking to my colleagues, some of them have said that they disagree with President Trump's positions and that is why they are opposing Mr. Pompeo. Their favorite person—who would probably be in the other party and have different views—is not going to be nominated by President Trump. President Trump is going to nominate somebody who supports him on most of his basic approach to foreign policy and someone he trusts. That is just how it works.

Again, when we supported John Kerry with 94 votes in the Senate—I think it was 94, 95, or something like that—it is not that we agreed with all the policies from President Obama; it is that we believed President Obama should have the right to have a Secretary of State who he thought was going to best represent him, and we thought that Senator Kerry was qualified. I think the same was true with regard to Hillary Clinton, who got 94 votes. The same was true with Condoleezza Rice. The same was true with GEN Colin Powell. And the same should be true here because certainly Mike Pompeo is extremely well qualified.

The other thing I have heard from my colleagues—and I have talked to a number of them on the committee and off the committee about seeing if they could possibly join us in supporting Mr. Pompeo so he can have a little more of a bipartisan momentum here as he goes into this job—the other thing I have heard is that they are concerned, given his background in the military and given some of the things he said as a Member of Congress, that maybe he will focus more on military power rather than soft power—in other words, less on diplomacy and more on kinetic or military activity.

I don't think that is consistent with anything I have heard from him either

in our private meetings or in his public testimony where he addressed this issue head-on. He said that as a former Army officer and someone who went to West Point and graduated at the top of his class—did I say that earlier? Anyway, he went to West Point, and he is someone who actually believes very strongly in soft power and believes that military actions ought to be the last resort, not the first resort. I think that is true with almost anybody who has been in the military—certainly people who have been in combat. I made the comparison to what Colin Powell said when he was nominated, which was very similar to that. What General Mattis says today is very similar to that.

I believe Mike Pompeo has the opportunity not only to help with regard to these crisis issues we are facing around the world—North Korea, Syria, what is happening in Ukraine—I think he is someone who has the ability to improve the morale at the State Department at a critical time. In fact, I am convinced of it. Having talked to some people at the State Department—as you know, many of the career civil service people have been feeling as though they weren't being consulted. Mike Pompeo is a listener, and he has talked about what he did at the CIA. He talked about the fact that God gave us only one mouth but two ears. In other words, we are supposed to be listening and taking in the input and then helping to lead as a servant leader listening to people. I think that is the kind of leader Mike Pompeo is.

My hope is that he will be confirmed and that he will earn the trust some of us have shown in him by doing exactly that at the State Department—getting the diplomats in the State Department engaged and empowered, making sure that we are taking every step possible with regard to diplomacy before turning to military action anywhere in the world, and working with our military and with the White House and with the Congress to have a U.S. foreign policy that is effective in keeping the peace.

Yes, we need a strong military because by having a strong military, by having a strong defense, we maximize the chance for peace, but we also have to have a strong diplomacy arm that is out there ensuring that we take every measure we possibly can to use soft diplomacy. I think diplomacy is something that Mike Pompeo has shown that he is committed to.

So my hope is that we will have positive votes on Rick Grenell as Ambassador to Germany and Mike Pompeo later this week, that we can have bipartisan support for these two, and that they, in turn, will earn the trust this body has shown in them.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 18-14, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$110 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-14

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0.5 million.
Other \$109.5 million.
Total \$110.0 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy defense articles and services in support of continuation of a Continental United States (CONUS) based Royal Netherlands Air Force F-16 Formal Training Unit.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to twenty-seven (27) GBU-12 Inert Paveway IIs.

Non-MDE: Also included are PGU-27 Inert training rounds, Impulse Cartridges, MJU-7/B Flares, RR-188 Chaff, BDU-33/B and BDU-50/B training munitions, fuel and air refueling support, airlift services, base operating support, facilities, publications and technical documentation, pilot training, personnel training and training equipment, weapon system and software support, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NE-D-NZW).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NE-D-NXZ-\$149.3 million; 19 Sep 13.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.; Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 24, 2018.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Netherlands—F-16 Formal Training Unit at Tucson Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Arizona

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy defense articles and services in support of continuation of a Continental United States (CONUS) based Royal Netherlands Air Force F-16 Formal Training Unit, to include up to twenty-seven (27) GBU-12 Inert Paveway IIs. Also included are PGU-27 Inert training rounds, Impulse Cartridges, MJU-7/B Flares, RR-188 Chaff, BDU-33/B and BDU-50/B training munitions, fuel and air refueling support, airlift services, base operating support, facilities, publications and technical documentation, pilot training, personnel training and training equipment, weapon system and software support, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated program value is \$110 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

This potential sale will continue to improve the Royal Netherlands Air Force's (RNLAf) ability to develop mission-ready and experienced pilots to support its F-16 aircraft inventory. The well-established pilot proficiency training program at Tucson Air National Guard Base will train pilots in F-16 operations, tactics, techniques, and procedures. This training will enhance the RNLAf's ability to continue contributions to Overseas Contingency Operations and to NATO air policing operations, as well as, to possible future coalition operations. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this training.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There is no prime contractor involved in this proposed sale. The Tucson Air National Guard will provide instruction, flight operations, and maintenance support and facilities with defense articles anticipated to come from U.S. stocks, as needed. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government personnel or contractor representatives to the Netherlands.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 18-12, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$70 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-12

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Netherlands

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$60 million.
Other \$10 million.

Total \$70 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three thousand five hundred (3,500) M1156 Precision Guided Kit (PGK).

Non-MDE: Also included are six (6) PGK settable trainers; two (2) PGK cut away models; one hundred (100) M76 PGK fuze wrenches; ten (10) Extended Length Artillery Projectile Extractors (ELAPEs); PGK technical data and publications; U.S. Government engineering and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (NE-B-WKA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 24, 2018.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Netherlands—M1156 Precision Guided Kits

The Netherlands has requested to buy three thousand five hundred (3,500) M1156 Precision Guided Kits. Also included are six (6) PGK settable trainers; two (2) PGK cut away models; one hundred (100) M76 PGK fuze wrenches; ten (10) Extended Length Artillery Projectile Extractors (ELAPEs); PGK technical data and publications; U.S. Government engineering and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$70 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of the Netherlands which is an important force for political stability and eco-

nomics progress in Europe. It is important to the U.S. national interests to assist the Netherlands to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. The Netherlands has been a consistent coalition partner supporting the United States in various coalition combat operations to include counter-ISIS, Stabilization Force in Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The proposed sale of PGK will provide a precision guided capability to 155mm artillery projectiles and improve Netherlands's capability to meet current and future enemy threats. The Netherlands will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defenses, deter regional threats, and provide direct support to coalition and security cooperation efforts. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not impact the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Orbital ATK. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. or contractor representatives to the Netherlands.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-12

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M1156 Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) is a Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning Service (PPS) guided 155mm artillery projectile fuze. This effort includes the qualification of PGK on the Assegai M1711 Insensitive High Explosive (IHE) Base Bleed (BB) projectile with modular charges DM92 Charge 6 and PGK on the Assegai M1712 IHE Boat Tail (BT) projectile with modular charges DM92 Charges 5 and 6, both fired from the Netherlands' PzH 2000 self-propelled howitzer.

2. The M1156 utilizes the Enhanced Portable Electronic Fuze Setter (EPEFS) to set the PGK and the Portable Electronic Fire Control System (PEFCS) both purchased previously under a previous Excalibur FMS case. The PEFCS contain an Improved Platform Integration Kit (MK) to load GPS coordinates. Both the PGK and PEFCS contain the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM). The PGK has 90% commonality with the Army's XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI). The PGK (the end-item) is unclassified. Transfer of the PGK may reveal information up to SECRET.

3. The M1156 utilizes the Army's M782 Multi-Option for Artillery (MOFA) Proximity Height of Burst (HOB) Technology. The HOB sensor is comprised of components with technologies deemed as state of the art, requiring specialized production skills. The sensitive/critical technology is primarily in the design, development, production and manufacturing of the components (integrated circuits and assembly), and the integration methodology required to integrate those components onto an assembly to process embedded (the software-algorithm-working parameters). The HOB technology is classified SECRET.

4. Disclosure of this technology could result in an adversary developing counter-

measures, thus lessening the effect of the projectile. Disclosure of test data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses and threat definition could all aid reverse engineering and could be used by an adversary for possible use against U.S. and Coalition forces. Compromise could jeopardize the U.S. forces inventory through jammer development by adversaries. The risk of compromise has been assessed as moderate. Risk is reduced for fuze/munitions if adequately controlled and protected in storage and on the battlefield. Risk is mitigated by the prevention of disclosure of sensitive classified information (the know-how, software, and associated documentation).

5. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that the Netherlands can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Netherlands.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the April 23, 2018, vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 624, the nomination of Stuart Kyle Duncan to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. I would have voted nay.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RANA PLAZA FACTORY COLLAPSE IN BANGLADESH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, 5 years ago today, the Rana Plaza building collapsed in Bangladesh, tragically killing more than 1,100 people and injuring thousands more. Rana Plaza, a bustling multistory commercial building in Dhaka, had housed several ready-made garment factories, as well as banks and other businesses. When cracks appeared in the building facade the day prior to its collapse and some stores in the building accordingly closed up shop, owners of the garment factories inside Rana Plaza rather told their workers not to worry and ordered them to return for work the next day, but this was not a time for business as usual. Thousands of garment workers, the majority of them enterprising young women achieving new levels of financial independence for themselves and their families, filed back into the building the next morning. Thousands of them never made it back out. The world was rightly stunned and horrified by the images of the lifeless bodies of hundreds of young women being pulled from the rubble of this man-made disaster.

The Rana Plaza tragedy could have been avoided, and it demonstrated that "business as usual" in Bangladesh's

garment industry inordinately rewarded factory owners and managers, while ignoring factory workers' safety and rights. In the dusty rubble of the building collapse, it became crystal clear that the Bangladeshi Government, factory owners and managers, and the global apparel brands all had a grave responsibility to do more, and quickly, to secure the labor rights of Bangladeshi workers. A simple fact remains, 5 years later: Had the Rana Plaza workers been afforded the ability to organize and protect their interests, the tragedy never would have happened. With collective strength and action, they could have stood up to employers to demand basic rights, and they could have refused to be ordered back into the building without appropriate safety standards. Five years later, it is also clear that a great deal of work remains to secure these rights.

As the son of a seamstress who worked in the textile factories of northern New Jersey, I knew from watching my mother how tiring and strenuous such work could be, but it does not have to be fatal. The United States' own Triangle Shirtwaist Fire more than a hundred years before Rana Plaza, which killed nearly 150 people, galvanized a necessary workers' movement and subsequent necessary reforms that to this day help protect labor rights while ensuring that American companies produce high-quality products. To this day, the AFL-CIO and other American labor unions work tirelessly to expose the conditions facing U.S. workers and to organize collective responses and inform government decisions to promote worker protections. Last year, for example, an AFL-CIO report revealed an alarming rate of workplace deaths among Latinos and immigrants to the United States and provided recommendations to the Department of Labor to address them. Along with many of my Senate colleagues, I am pushing for our government to adopt these recommendations. Put simply, the successes of American organized labor are inextricable from the prosperity of the American economy and have helped to boost the fortunes of countless American workers.

We know that countries and people are more secure and prosperous when workers can operate in safety while pursuing economic success. The proud legacy of the movement for American workers' rights demands that we advocate for workers at risk around the globe. In the past 5 years since the Rana Plaza disaster, we have so advocated. We have come together in unprecedented ways to address the factors driving labor abuses against workers in Bangladesh.

As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the time of the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013, my first hearing explored the tragedy and the consequences of a race to the bottom that had increased companies' profit margins alongside risks to their workers. This was the first SFRC hearing fo-

cused on labor rights in more than a dozen years. I called another hearing early the following year to review progress in addressing the labor rights emergency in Bangladesh and conducted rigorous, bipartisan oversight to ensure that the U.S. Government was doing all it could to spur change among brands, owners, and Bangladeshi Government officials. This included a field visit and a November 2013 majority staff report that examined progress in advancing workers' safety and labor rights since the Rana Plaza disaster and the Tazreen factory fire. We also worked closely with our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to ensure that funds over 3 successive fiscal years were designated to directly support the development and capacity-building of truly independent labor unions in Bangladesh that could safely and effectively advocate for worker rights.

Meanwhile, major American retailers who produced apparel in Bangladesh, including Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle Outfitters, and Fruit of the Loom, joined the effort alongside other global brands, governments, civil society, and labor unions to grapple with the acute challenges facing Bangladeshi workers who produced their goods. The risk of undermined consumer confidence and declines in brand quality helped spur some corporations to join the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh—a 5-year, legally binding compact to improve safety in Bangladeshi ready-made garment factories through reasonable steps to prevent future disasters. Most importantly, the accord signatories included labor unions, who were rightly regarded as equal and critical stakeholders in effecting needed change. Five years later, accord brands have the opportunity to demonstrate a sustained commitment to worker rights by signing on to the 2018 accord. This iteration strengthens and expands the accord to cover freedom of association. Other groups, such as the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, have also helped to further galvanize American and multinational brands to take greater responsibility for ensuring worker safety in Bangladesh. In any such efforts, workers and their representatives must have a truly equal seat at the table, for without them we cannot make meaningful labor rights reforms.

Governments have a critical role to play as well. Following Rana Plaza, the United States and other governments pressed Bangladesh to take meaningful steps to improve respect for labor rights in the country, including through removing Bangladesh from the generalized system of preferences and conducting regular reviews of the Bangladeshi Government's efforts to better adhere to international labor standards. I believe the U.S. Government can and should do more to ensure that developing countries with which our country trades are taking nec-

essary steps to respect labor and human rights. I was proud last year to introduce the Labor Rights for Development Act with Senator BROWN and the Anti-Trafficking Trade Act with Senator PORTMAN that together would raise the labor and human rights standards countries must meet to gain preferential access to the U.S. market.

Five years on, the progress made in Bangladesh is simply not enough. Factories throughout the country have failed to meet their binding commitments on workplace safety in the accord and the alliance, risking the departure of some global retailers to other markets. Independent unions in Bangladesh remain constrained and subject to increasing harassment and attacks on labor rights activists, which often occur with impunity. Amidst a growing climate of political tensions in Bangladesh, the government too often views independent labor unions as opposition dissenters to punish, rather than key partners that are vital to the country's growth and prosperity.

In the 5 years since Rana Plaza, I have continued to believe that what happens in Bangladesh to improve labor rights and workers' safety can have a dramatic ripple effect on the global apparel industry and that real change in working conditions there can help to change conditions for workers everywhere in a race to the top, but similarly, if not enough happens in Bangladesh, it sends the message that workers' lives can still be systematically undervalued and that working to advance labor rights is an endeavor not worth the risk. That is the wrong message, and on this anniversary, we must recommit ourselves to pushing stakeholders in Bangladesh—whether government, brands, or owners—to continue a path of reform. To do any less harms not just the workers, but also Bangladesh's economic potential, because no one will want to wear clothes stained with the blood of workers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES DODD "JIM" MANASCO

• Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Jim Manasco, who passed away at his home on Smith Lake in Alabama on April 12, 2018.

Jim was a self-taught artist and sign painter who entered the trade as an apprentice when he was just 16 years old. He was a successful commercial artist for 65 years and possessed the rare ability to letter and paint freehand. He was also a gifted creative artist in multiple mediums, from carving to pottery to painting.

In the early 1970s, Jim, his wife, Ruth, and a small group of naturalists were leaders in the fight to preserve and protect the land along the Sipsey fork of the Black Warrior River in northwest Alabama. Because of his

dedication, Jim was chosen to testify before Congress in support of the Eastern Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in 1975, and the Sipsey Wilderness, in the Bankhead National Forest, became the first wilderness designated in the act. Thanks to Jim and that determined group, generations to come will continue to enjoy pristine, undeveloped lands east of the Mississippi River. Since passage of the act, more than 140 Wilderness Areas and nearly 1.5 million acres have been protected in the eastern United States.

Like FDR, who, following in the footsteps of his “uncle” Teddy Roosevelt, left a great conservation legacy, Jim saw “an America whose rivers and valleys and lakes—hills and streams and plains—the mountains over our land and nature’s wealth deep under the earth—are protected as the rightful heritage of all the people.” Thanks to men like Jim Manasco, more than half of the people who live in Alabama enjoy outdoor recreation every year in the most biologically diverse State east of the Mississippi River and one of the most biologically diverse States in the entire country. Alabama boasts forests, woodlands, wetlands, caves, glades, beaches, and prairies, not to mention more than 4,500 documented species.

The importance of protecting and wisely managing this natural wealth cannot be overstated. In Alabama, outdoor recreation generates 135,000 direct jobs—that is more than twice the number of auto manufacturing jobs—it generates \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries and \$857 million in State and local taxes.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Jim Manasco’s other important legacy, that of Cherokee wisdomkeeper. The Cherokee played a significant role in the history of Alabama, and many Alabamians proudly claim Cherokee ancestry. Jim was long honored as a Tribal elder for his teachings about carvings on beech trees, native symbols, ceremonial knowledge, and Tribal history and for his intimate knowledge of the plants and animals that inhabit the landscape of the South. Some of this wisdom was captured in his popular book, “Walking Sipsey,” published in 1992.

Jim always downplayed his accomplishments, often saying, “Raw talent’s got nothing over dogged determination.” Well, Jim Manasco was right, and America needs more men with dogged determination to do the right thing. I hope to be one of them.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA ABRAHAMS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Alexandra Abrahams, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alexandra is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she ma-

jors in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY ALDRIDGE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Bradley Aldridge, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Bradley Aldridge is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA BROWN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Samantha Brown, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Samantha is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in political science and criminal justice with a minor in legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO FARAH FOUAD

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Farah Fouad, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Farah is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University, where she majored in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL GILLIAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize John Paul Gillian, a 2017 spring intern in my Jacksonville, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has

done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

John Paul is a student at the University of North Florida, where he is pursuing his masters of science in management. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to John Paul for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER GILLIAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Peter Gillian, a 2017 spring intern in my Jacksonville, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Peter is a student at the University of North Florida, where he is majoring in accounting. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Peter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLER GRAY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kyler Gray, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Kyler is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in public administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE HELLMANN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Natalie Hellmann, a fall intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Natalie is a student at the Rollins College, where she majors in business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ETHAN HULLIHAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Ethan Hulihan, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all

of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Ethan is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCCOY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Matthew McCoy, a fall intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Matthew McCoy is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LEA MANGINO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Lea Mangino, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Lea is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in political science and minors in business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIAH MAY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Mariah May, a fall intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Mariah May is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PAOLA RAMOS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Paola Ramos, a spring intern

in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Paola is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in legal studies and minors in criminal justice. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AARON ROSENTHAL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Aaron Rosenthal, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Aaron is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in history. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLA RUIZ

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Gabriella Ruiz, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Gabriella is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in political science and minors in Spanish and business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA SCHOENROCK

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Alyssa Schoenrock, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alyssa is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she majors in legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to her for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ZUBAIR SHAIKH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Zubair Shaikh, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Zubair is a student at Valencia College, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LOGAN SPINA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Logan Spina, a spring intern in my Orlando, FL, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Logan is a student at the University of Central Florida, where he majors in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Logan for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA "CINDY" STEVENS

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the admirable career of Ms. Cynthia "Cindy" Stevens, a native Mississippian whose success in business is accompanied by a lifelong devotion to mentorship and public service.

After graduating from Mississippi State University, Cindy came to Washington as an aide to Mississippi Congressman Sonny Montgomery. She would go on to serve as his legislative director, helping to develop policies that made our State and country better.

Diligence and a devotion to good governance continued in her next role as the director of public affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she worked on issues related to campaign finance and the administration of election laws by Federal agencies. She then joined the Washington Board of Trade, serving as a tireless advocate for the business community.

A reputation for hard work and results has characterized Cindy's work at the global accounting firm Deloitte since she started in 1993 as a member of the support staff for its east coast litigation support services. She was quickly promoted to risk support management and rose to become a principal in government relations, overseeing legislative affairs at the State and local

levels. She led Deloitte's efforts to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and her collaboration with the strategy groups of other Big Four firms helped meet key legislative and regulatory agency objectives.

Cindy has been a role model to other female professionals throughout her career. She was a mentor to my current chief of staff when she was first starting her congressional career. Later at Deloitte, she highlighted the achievements and talents of younger female employees to her peers in other firms. She has also been instrumental in efforts to elect women to Congress.

Cindy's own story of success as one of the highest ranking female principals at Deloitte continues to inspire young women. She remains active in organizations she supports, serving on the Mississippi State Foundation Board of Directors, National Capital Multiple Sclerosis Society Board, and the U.S. Chamber Public Affairs Committee.

I wish Cindy well in her retirement. I know she will continue to use her talents and experience to benefit her community. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-4939. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Forest Services Directives" (RIN0596-AC65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4940. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus sibiricus strain FMCH002; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9971-55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Bacillus licheniformis strain FMCH001; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9971-54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chloromequat Chloride; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9974-42) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4943. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of violations of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosions (ATF) between fiscal years 2000 and 2016; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4944. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4945. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4946. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Gary H. Cheek, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4947. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Scott H. Swift, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4948. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employment of Military Resources in the Event of Civil Disturbances" (RIN0790-AK07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4949. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of North Dakota Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy" (FRL No. 9976-92-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4950. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New York: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9974-06-Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4951. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Hospital, Medical, and Infection Waste Incineration (HMIWI) Units" (FRL No. 9977-10-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4952. 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; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Visible Emissions and Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9976-92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4953. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, 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 Yellow Lance (RIN1018-BB45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4954. A communication from the Program Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest Regulations" (RIN1018-BB23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4955. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing Policy and Support, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Textual Descriptions of Critical Habitat Boundaries for Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Fishes, Clams, Snails, Arachnids, Crustaceans, and Insects" (RIN1018-BA81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4956. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Delisting, Downlisting, and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Black-Capped Vireo From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BB79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4957. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, 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 Louisiana Pinesnake" (RIN1018-BB46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4958. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Certain 2018 Cost-of-Living Adjustments" (Rev. Proc. 2018-22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4959. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Proc. 2018-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4960. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Belgium, Norway and the United Kingdom to support the maintenance, repair and overhaul of F-100 aircraft engines in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-089); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4961. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to France and Japan to support development and modification of maritime patrol aircraft for use by the government of Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-117); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4962. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan to support the manufacture of Mk 46 Torpedo assemblies and components in Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-133); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4963. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom for the assembly of GPS Aided Inertial Navigation Systems (GAINS) and manufacture of the electronic and mechanical components and parts for GAINS for use in Paveway Weapon Systems in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4964. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom for the manufacture of control section units and associated electronics modules for the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile for end use by the United States Government in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-137); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4965. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia to support the integration and operation, engineering support, training, testing, maintenance,

and repair of AN/PRC-158 software defined tactical radio systems and the Network Planning and Management System for command and control/command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission applications in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-138); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4966. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2018-0036—2018-0039); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4967. A communication from the Director of the Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act: Maximum and Minimum Compensation Rates" (RIN1240-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4968. A communication from the Acting Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4969. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2016 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4970. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Fiscal Year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4971. A communication from the Acting Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4972. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-300, "Injured Metropolitan Police Office Relief Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4973. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-301, "Child Neglect and Sex Trafficking Temporary Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4974. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-302, "Pools Without Penalties Temporary Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4975. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 22-303, "Deferred Compensation Program Enrollment Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4976. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-304, "Office-to-Affordable-Housing Task Force Establishment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4977. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-305, "Community Residential Facilities Third-Party Notice of Utility Disconnection Requirement of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4978. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-306, "Great Streets Technical Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4979. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-307, "Medical Assistance Program Modernization Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4980. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-308, "Dupont Circle Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4981. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-312, "Senior Dental Services Program Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4982. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-313, "Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Enactment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4983. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-314, "Nurse Staffing Agency Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4984. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-315, "Maternal Mortality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4985. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal years 2016 and 2017 annual reports relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4986. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4987. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management,

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1119)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5013. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0268)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5014. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (20); Amdt. No. 3792" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5015. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (125); Amdt. No. 3791" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5016. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (17); Amdt. No. 3794" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5017. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (74); Amdt. No. 3793" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5018. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (75); Amdt. No. 3789" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5019. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (34); Amdt. No. 3790" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in

the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5020. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and E Airspace for the following Missouri Towns; Cape Girardeau, MO; St. Louis, MO; and Macon, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9559)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5021. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Messana, NY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0953)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5022. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class B Airspace Description; St. Louis, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0178)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5023. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Selinsgrove, PA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0839)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5024. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment, Revocation, and Establishment of Class D and E Airspace; Enid Vance AFB, OK; Enid Woodring Municipal Airport, OK; Enid, OK; and Vance AFB, OK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9378)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5025. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Massena, NY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0953)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5026. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Lewiston, ID" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0986)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5027. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Twin Falls, ID" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0969)) received in the Office of the President

of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5028. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; Clanton, AL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0802)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5029. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Revocation of multiple Air Traffic Services (ATS) Routes; Northcentral United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9555)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5030. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Yuma, CO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1064)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5031. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2907C; Lake George, FL, R-2910B, R-2910C, and R-2910E; Pinecastle, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0103)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5032. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2907C, R-2910B, R-2910C, and R-2910E; Pinecastle, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0103)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5033. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2501E, R-2501N, R-2501W, and R-2501S; Bullion Mountains, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0102)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5034. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safety Program" ((RIN2130-AC31) (Docket No. FRA-2011-0060, Notice No. 6)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5035. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safety Program" ((RIN2130-AC31) (Docket No. FRA-2011-0060, Notice No. 5)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5036. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safety Program" (RIN2130-AC31) (Docket No. FRA-2011-0060, Notice No. 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5037. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees" (RIN2130-AC68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5038. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safety Program" (RIN2130-AC31) (Docket No. FRA-2011-0060, Notice No. 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5039. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Cape May Peninsula Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5040. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rights to Federally Funded Inventions and Licensing of Government Owned Inventions" (RIN0693-AB63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5041. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.624(g) of the Commission's Rules Regarding Submission of FCC Form 2100, Schedule G, Used to Report TV Stations' Ancillary or Supplementary Services; Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative" (MB Docket No. 17-264 and MB Docket No. 17-105) (FCC 18-41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5042. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Auction of FM Translator Construction Permits Scheduled for June 21, 2018; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 83" (AU Docket No. 17-351) (DA 18-257) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5043. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0210) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5044. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Ad-

ministration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 Biennial National Strategy for Transportation Security"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for Mr. McCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Dorothy A. Hogg, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Richard P. Snyder, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. John C. Aquilino, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Gregory N. Todd, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. John S. Lemmon, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Ronald C. Copley and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Kathleen M. Creighton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Brian K. Corey and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Darse E. Crandall, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Kristen B. Fabry and ending with Capt. Joseph D. Noble, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Heidi K. Berg and ending with Capt. William E. Chase III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

Navy nomination of Capt. John J. Adametz, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Thomas J. Anderson, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. James A. Aiken and ending with Capt. George M. Wikoff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

Air Force nomination of Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Michael T. Gerock, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Fogarty, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Raymond S. Dingle, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Eugene J. LeBoeuf and ending with Col. Robert E. Suter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2018.

Navy nomination of Adm. Philip S. Davidson, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. David M. Kriete, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Michelle C. Skubic, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Eugene H. Black III and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Kenneth R. Whitesell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2018.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Brent W. Scott, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Darin K. Via, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Michael G. Dana, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. David H. Berger, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Stephen E. Liszewski and ending with Col. Calvert L. Worth, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2018.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. INHOFE for Mr. McCAIN, Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Richard G. Anderson and ending with Joel K. Warren, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 8, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ronnelle Armstrong and ending with John Marion Von Almen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 8, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Alison Lee Beach and ending with Cortney Lynn Zuercher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 8, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael J. Abbott and ending with David Russell Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2018.

Army nomination of Tia W. Caphart, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Napoleon A. Campos, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Kevin R. Embry, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Andrew J. Furjanic, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Daniel L. Lee, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of John M. Williams, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Roberto Soriano Olivias, to be Major.

Army nomination of Jason Palatas, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Jose R. Reveles, Jr. and ending with Kenneth J. Strauss, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2018.

Army nomination of D012279, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Russell B. Gilliland, to be Major.

Army nomination of Erik M. Bauer, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lawrence W. Henry, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Kenneth A. Willeford, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of D012941, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Roxanne T. Sickles, to be Major.

Army nomination of James F. Huggins II, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Denny L. Rozenberg, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Douglas R. Burian, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Chad R. Fitzgerald, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Edward M. Crossman, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Nana K. Appiahiah and ending with Austin R. Younger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

*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. TESTER:

S. 2732. A bill to clarify that participants in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program may be assigned to serve in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2733. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to rename the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2734. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2735. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for the establishment of an enhanced cybersecurity assistance and protections for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2736. A bill to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2737. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2738. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require air carrier passengers

with service animals to adhere to a standard of service animal behavior training; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2739. A bill to increase the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to restrict the entrance of illicit drugs into the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2740. A bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2741. A bill to authorize the United States Postal Service to inspect the contents of certain suspicious packages for illicit materials without a warrant; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2742. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate selective androgen receptor modulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2743. A bill to clarify that the Secretary of Homeland Security is not required to provide notice to private entities before issuing binding operational directives on agency information security policies and practices; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 60. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Barbara M. Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 481. A resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 482. A resolution congratulating the Villanova University Wildcats for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 112

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 112, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive

service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 629

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drugs, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety and effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in the prevention, control, and treatment of animal diseases, in order to minimize the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

S. 755

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals, to limit the reexamination of airman certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to reform apportionments to general aviation airports under the airport improvement program, to improve project delivery at certain airports, and to designate certain airports as disaster relief airports, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2147

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2147, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2334, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide clarity with respect to, and to modernize, the licensing system for musical works under section 115 of that title, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of that title, and for other purposes.

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2343, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2564

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2564, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to promote the investigation of fraudulent claims against certain trusts, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties against fraudulent claims against certain trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of

S. 2607, a bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, or law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to address the opioid crisis.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, *supra*.

S. 2708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2708, a bill to provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2719, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on military installations receive information regarding such exposure, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 440

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 440, a resolution designating April 2018 as "Second Chance Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2737. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President. Maintaining a talented workforce is essential to cultivating a strong economy and positioning our Nation for success in today's increasingly competitive global marketplace. Opportunities for education, professional development, and the acquisition of skills immediately translatable in the workplace will help to ensure that our students and workers are equipped with the skills re-

quired to succeed in the 21st century. Career and technical education (CTE) programs play a vital role in increasing student engagement, continuing our nation's economic competitiveness, and building the skills of our country's workforce.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of student interest in career and technical education, but shortages in high-quality CTE teachers have made it difficult for school districts to meet this demand. While the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008 provides grants for teacher residency partnership programs to colleges and universities who work with high-needs school districts to train prospective teachers, no CTE-focused partnerships exist.

That is why I am introducing with my colleagues, Senator BALDWIN, Senator PORTMAN and Senator CAPITO the Creating Quality Technical Educators Act, which would amend the Higher Education and Opportunity Act to create a CTE teacher-training grant partnership to equip aspiring CTE teachers with real-world experience and credible skills to apply in the classroom. This legislation would foster teacher training partnerships between high-needs secondary schools and post-secondary institutions to create a one-year residency initiative for teachers and includes teacher mentorship for a minimum of two years. This period of hands-on training and mentorship will only increase the ability of CTE teachers to benefit their students through classroom instruction and serve as a career model.

In addition to establishing CTE specific teacher-training grant partnerships, this bill takes a proactive approach to recruiting and training more high-quality CTE teachers. CTE teacher residencies would target teacher candidates from a variety of backgrounds including recent college graduates, veterans, mid-career professionals, and currently licensed teachers with a need for technical skills training who seek to transition into CTE fields.

As co-chair of the Senate CTE Caucus, I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to recruit and train talented teachers to meet the rising need for CTE. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act is an important step towards ensuring access to high-quality CTE instruction, preparing teachers for success, and maintaining the skill set of our Nation's workforce.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2734. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. 2734

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

SECTION 1. GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 481—CALLING UPON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO DISMANTLE ITS LABOR CAMP SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 481

Whereas the public has long been aware of the labor camp system in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) through continuous eye-witness and survivor accounts, and now publicly available satellite technology;

Whereas, according to The Hidden Gulag IV report, North Korea runs 2 kinds of prison camps, the kwan-li-so and the kyo-hwa-so, as well as “various types of short-term forced labour detention facilities”;

Whereas the most heinous camps, the kwan-li-so, known as Prison Camp 14, 15, 16, 18, and 25, contain roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017 states that “hundreds of thousands of inmates are estimated to have died”;

Whereas, from 1981 to 2013, an estimated 400,000 people out of 500,000 imprisoned were killed in these labor camps;

Whereas persons who are sent to these labor camps are forcibly disappeared and intended to die;

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found, “the inmate population has been gradually eliminated through deliberate starvation, forced labour, executions, torture, rape and the denial of reproductive rights enforced through punishment, forced abortion and infanticide”;

Whereas up to 3 generations of a “viola-tor’s” family will be sent to the labor camps even if no “wrongdoing” is found;

Whereas, according to the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017, the Govern-ment of North Korea regularly and routinely

commits crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, enslavement, forcible transfer, imprisonment, torture, sexual violence, persecution, enforced disappear-ances, and other inhumane acts;

Whereas, according to the best available evidence, some specific crimes identified by the Inquiry are that—

(1) “Christians are heavily persecuted and receive especially harsh treatment in prison camps, with one former prison guard testifying that ‘Christians were reactionaries and there were lots of instructions . . . to wipe out the seed of reactionaries’”;

(2) multiple witnesses watched prisoners tortured and killed on account of their reli-gious affiliation;

(3) a prisoner was raped by a security offi-cer, after which the officer stuck a wooden stick inside her vagina and beat her lower body, resulting in her death within a week of the rape;

(4) an abortion was induced by 3 men standing on a wooden plank placed on a preg-nant prisoner’s stomach;

(5) another witness lost consciousness after enduring a beating designed to trigger pre-mature labor, with prison officials killing her baby before she could regain conscious-ness;

(6) rape victims who feared being killed after becoming pregnant engaged in self-in-duced abortions by eating dirt and poisoning themselves with flower roots;

(7) other rape victims self-induced abor-tions by inserting a rubber tube in their vagi-nas;

(8) rape of teenage girls and their subse-quent attempts to commit suicide by jump-ing in the Daedonggang River were so com-mon that prison guards were deployed to the river to thwart them;

(9) four pregnant women were executed for protesting the fact guards forced them to run down a mountain in a failed effort to in-duce miscarriages;

(10) twelve prisoners were shot and killed in the commotion that ensued after the exe-cution of the 4 pregnant women referenced in paragraph (9), and a former prison guard wit-nessed a prisoner’s newborn baby, most like-ly fathered by a high-ranking official, fed to guard dogs and killed;

(11) female prisoners suspected of being im-pregnated by non-Korean men (namely Chi-nese men) are subjected to especially harsh treatment, with one witness describing a prisoner being injected with a labor-inducing drug and having to watch as a guard suffo-cated her newborn to death with a wet towel;

(12) a former North Korean army nurse tes-tified that she saw multiple abortions per-formed by injecting Ravenol (a motor oil) into the wombs of pregnant women and that babies born 3 to 4 months premature were “wrapped in newspapers and put in a bucket until buried” behind the detention center;

(13) deliberate starvation, malnutrition, and overwork are extremely common, result-ing in the deaths of countless prisoners;

(14) at one prison camp, 1,500 to 2,000 pris-oners, mostly children, are believed to have died each year from malnutrition, while many other prisoners were beaten to death for failing to meet production quotas;

(15) starving prisoners are regularly exe-cuted when caught scavenging for food;

(16) at one prison camp, starving prisoners who were found digging up edible plants on a mountainside were shot to death;

(17) at another camp, a witness saw a fel-low inmate executed for stealing potatoes, while in a separate camp a witness described the execution of numerous prisoners caught scavenging for leftover food in prison guards’ quarters;

(18) a prisoner was beaten to death for hid-ing stolen corn in his mouth;

(19) public executions by firing squads or other means are common, especially for pris-oners caught attempting to escape;

(20) the existence of mass graves is well documented, including detailed descriptions of mass burial sites at or near prison camps, as well as testimony about bodies being “dumped” on mountainsides near prison camps;

(21) an undisclosed location near a prison camp was regularly used for nighttime exe-cutions, with gunshots clearly audible;

(22) at a 1990 prison riot, approximately 1,500 prisoners were shot and killed, their bodies discarded in a closed mine;

(23) in order to satisfy production quotas, inmates—including teenagers—were forced to perform 15 to 16 hours of hard labor per day;

(24) one witness was forced to perform hard labor (carrying logs) when he was 9 years old;

(25) at one mine in particular, prisoners were forced to work 20 hours per day, with a witness testifying that approximately 200 prisoners died each year at that mine alone;

(26) a soldier supervising a forced labor site at a political prison rolled a log down a steep mountainside, killing 10 prisoners as they were carrying logs up the mountain;

(27) the bodies of some prisoners who died as a result of forced labor or torture were thrown into the cells of prisoners in solitary confinement and later strung on barbed-wire fences where they were eaten by crows;

(28) one witness described a torture cham-ber with blood and flesh on the walls and de-caying corpses of past victims placed in the chamber in order to instill fear in the next prisoner;

(29) psychological abuse in political prisons is pervasive, with gruesome acts, including executions, carried out in plain view of fel-low prisoners in order to terrorize them; and

(30) torture is a routine feature of life in political prisons, with a 2014 report by Am-nesty International concluding that “North Korea’s prison camps are very possibly home to some of the most appalling torture in the world”;

Whereas officials of the Government of North Korea continually deny the existence of the labor camps;

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017 found that North Korea’s labor camp system “has no parallel in the world today”;

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found that the government continually commits crimes against humanity and will not cease, “be-cause the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their root remain in place”;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the international community to—

(A) demand the Democratic People’s Re-public of Korea (North Korea) dismantle its labor camp system;

(B) create a special tribunal with jurisdic-tion to investigate and remedy crimes against humanity committed by the Govern-ment of North Korea;

(C) issue targeted sanctions against those individuals who have committed such crimes against humanity; and

(D) ban import of goods made by prisoners in the North Korean labor camp system;

(2) calls on the leadership of the Govern-ment of North Korea to—

(A) immediately cease human rights abuses;

(B) release the roughly 80,000–120,000 polit-ical prisoners;

(C) halt the ongoing arrests of North Kore-ans on political and religious grounds;

(D) allow the International Committee of the Red Cross entry into the camps to assist with the release and rehabilitation of prisoners;

(E) allow entry to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea to monitor the situation and assist with the rehabilitation; and

(F) comply with international standards of food distribution and monitoring and allow full access to international humanitarian agencies; and

(3) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) continue to pursue any additional sanctions to the extent possible against those individuals responsible for the North Korean labor camp system, including individuals administering such labor camps; and

(B) continue to raise awareness in the international community of the labor camps and the continuing atrocious crimes being committed in the labor camps.

SENATE RESOLUTION 482—CONGRATULATING THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY WILDCATS FOR WINNING THE 2018 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOMMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 482

Whereas on April 2, 2018, the Villanova University Wildcats (referred to in this preamble as the "Villanova Wildcats") defeated the University of Michigan Wolverines by a score of 79-62 in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in San Antonio, Texas;

Whereas the Villanova Wildcats won the NCAA championship in 1985, 2016, and 2018;

Whereas junior point guard Jalen Brunson was named the National Player of the Year after leading the Villanova Wildcats to a second NCAA championship in 3 seasons;

Whereas redshirt sophomore guard Donte DiVincenzo was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player of 2018;

Whereas the record of Donte DiVincenzo of 31 points, 10-for-15 shooting, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 blocks will be remembered as one of the greatest individual title game performances in the history of the NCAA tournament;

Whereas Donte DiVincenzo joins Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Walton, and Jack "Goose" Givens as the only players that have scored 30 points and shot 66 percent or better from the field in an NCAA title game;

Whereas the Villanova Wildcats made 18 3-point field goals in the national semifinal game against the University of Kansas, setting an NCAA tournament record;

Whereas the Villanova Wildcats—

(1) finished the 2017-2018 season with a record of 36-4;

(2) have won 4 Big East men's basketball tournament titles; and

(3) have won 3 national championships; and

Whereas Villanova University is committed to the ideal of the student athlete and the education of the athletes of Villanova University, as evidenced by the presence of 2 seniors and 5 juniors on the roster of the Villanova Wildcats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Villanova University Wildcats men's basketball team on the performance of the team in the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament; and

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the players, parents, families, coaches, and managers of the Villanova University Wildcats.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2240. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2061, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2240. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2061, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) found that the grave human rights violations still being perpetrated against the people of North Korea, due to policies established at the highest level of the state, amount to crimes against humanity. Crimes include forced starvation, sexual violence against women and children, restrictions on freedom of movement, arbitrary detention, torture, executions, and enforced disappearances, among other hardships.

(2) The COI also noted that the Government of the People's Republic of China is aiding and abetting in crimes against humanity by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees back to the DPRK. Upon repatriation, North Koreans are sent to prison camps, tortured, or even executed. The Government of the People's Republic of China's forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates its obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, under the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (as made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(3) Estimates from the COI suggest that between 80,000 and 120,000 people are believed to be imprisoned in political prison camps in North Korea. Another 70,000 are believed to be held at other detention facilities. Prisoners in both situations are subject to harsh conditions, limited food, sexual abuse, and in most cases hard labor.

(4) One of the findings of the COI report was the persecution of religious minorities, especially Christians. There is effectively no freedom of religion in North Korea, only worship of the Kim family. Christians are subjected to particularly acute persecution. It has been reported that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(5) North Korea profits from its human rights abuses. A 2014 report from the Asian Institute for Policy Studies suggests that

there are nearly 50,000 North Korean workers forced to labor overseas, sometimes without compensation, and for as much as 20 hours at a time. Workers that received compensation were not to be paid more than \$150 per month, which is between 10 to 20 percent of the value of the labor they performed. Based on this report, the regime may profit as much as \$360,000,000 annually from just 50,000 laborers.

(6) On July 6, 2016, the United States imposed sanctions on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other senior North Korean officials for human rights violations as required by the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-122). This was the first time that the United States had designated North Korean officials for human rights abuses.

(7) The North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-122) requires the President to impose mandatory penalties under United States law on any person that "knowingly engages in, is responsible for, or facilitates serious human rights abuses by the Government of North Korea".

(8) Although the United States Refugee Admissions Program remains the largest in the world by far, the United States has only resettled 212 refugees from North Korea since the date of the enactment of the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333).

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should continue to make it a priority to improve information access in North Korea by exploring the use of new and emerging technologies and expanding nongovernmental radio broadcasting to North Korea, including news and information;

(2) the United Nations has a significant role to play in promoting and improving human rights in North Korea and should press for access for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(3) because North Koreans fleeing into China face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their forcible repatriation, the United States should urge China to—

(A) immediately halt the forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unimpeded access to North Koreans inside China to determine whether such North Koreans require protection as refugees;

(C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to UNHCR Branch Office in the People's Republic of China (signed December 1, 1995);

(D) address the concerns of the United Nations Committee against Torture by incorporating the principle of non-refoulement into Chinese domestic legislation; and

(E) recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens, and ensure that all such children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the President should continue to designate all individuals found to have committed violations described in section 104(a) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 2914(a)), regarding complicity in censorship and human right abuses;

(5) the United States currently blocks United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State, and the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea;

(6) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement and to allow United States officials access to process refugees for resettlement in the United States (if that is the destination country of the refugees' choosing); and

(7) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees and defectors.

SEC. 4. RADIO BROADCASTING TO NORTH KOREA.

Section 103(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “that the United States should facilitate” and inserting the following: “that the United States should—

“(1) facilitate”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section—

(A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and inserting “broadcasting, including news rebroadcasting.”; and

(B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and inserting “increase such broadcasts, including news rebroadcasts.”; and

(C) by striking “Voice of America.” and inserting the following: “Voice of America; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) expand funding for nongovernmental organization broadcasting efforts, prioritizing organizations that engage North Korean defectors in programming and broadcast services.”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Section 104(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814(a)) is amended—

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

(2) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD cards, audio players, video players, cell phones, wi-fi, wireless internet, web pages, internet, wireless telecommunications, and other electronic media that shares information” before the period at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea, including devices and informational sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry out this paragraph, the President is authorized to issue regulations to facilitate the free-flow of information into North Korea.

“(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the availability and distribution of sources of information inside North Korea, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop or distribute (or both) new products or methods to allow North Koreans easi-

er access to outside information. Such program may involve public-private partnerships.

“(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors may broadcast American, Korean, Chinese, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming.

“(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors should broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

“(6) RELIGIOUS MINORITIES.—Efforts to improve information access under this subsection should include religious communities and should be coordinated with the Office of International Religious Freedom to ensure maximum impact in improving the rights of religious persons in North Korea.

“(7) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later than—

“(A) 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that sets forth a detailed plan for improving broadcasting content for the purpose of targeting new audiences and increasing listenership; and

“(B) 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter for each of the next 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including—

“(i) a description of the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this section, including data reflecting audience and listenership, device distribution and usage, and technological development and advancement usage;

“(ii) the amount of funds expended by the United States Government pursuant to section 403; and

“(iii) other appropriate information necessary to fully inform Congress of efforts related to this section.”.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION RELATED TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

Title III of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7841 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 306. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION RELATED TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

“It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) any instability on the Korean Peninsula could have significant humanitarian and strategic impact on the region and for United States national interests; and

“(2) as such, the United States Government should work with countries sharing a land or maritime border with North Korea to develop long-term whole-of-government plans to coordinate efforts related to humanitarian assistance and human rights promotion and to effectively assimilate North Korean defectors.”.

SEC. 7. REAUTHORIZATION PROVISIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: “The President is also author-

ized to provide grants to entities to undertake research on North Korea’s denial of human rights, including on the political and military chains of command responsible for authorizing and implementing systemic human rights abuses, including at prison camps and detention facilities where political prisoners are held.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$3,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—The report shall include a needs assessment to inform the distribution of humanitarian assistance inside North Korea.”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203(c)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)(1)) is amended by striking “2013 through 2017” and inserting “2018 through 2022”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

SEC. 8. REPORT BY BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the status of current United States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in accordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a)); and

(2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to such communication with the North Korean people, including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and inexpensive electronic means.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 403 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public

Law 114-122; 22 U.S.C. 9253) is hereby repealed.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The Committee on Agriculture is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The State of Rural America."

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Early Impressions of the New Tax Law."

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 2680, S. 2315, S. 2597, S. 382 and the following nominations: Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years, Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years, and other pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Mitigating America's Cybersecurity Risk."

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Abducted Abroad: Exploring the Plight of International Parental Child Abduction and Its Effect on American Families."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Maritime Transportation: Opportunities and Challenges."

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2061 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2061) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered 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. 2240) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2061), as amended, was passed.

CONGRATULATING THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 482, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 482) congratulating the Villanova University Wildcats for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 482) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, April 25; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. Finally, I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Pompeo nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:14 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

DAN MICHAEL BERKOVITZ, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2023, VICE SHARON Y. BOWEN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES E. HUBBARD, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE ROBERT BONNIE, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MICHELLE BOWMAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN

YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2006, VICE STANLEY FISCHER, RESIGNED.

RICHARD CLARIDA, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE STANLEY FISCHER, RESIGNED.

RICHARD CLARIDA, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2008, VICE DANIEL K. TARULLO, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

MARK VAN DYKE HOLMES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES W. CARROLL, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, VICE MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRADFORD J. SHWEDO

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANTONIO A. AGUTO, JR.
 BRIG. GEN. MARIA B. BARRETT
 BRIG. GEN. XAVIER T. BRUNSON
 BRIG. GEN. CHARLES H. CLEVELAND
 BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS C. CRISSEMAN
 BRIG. GEN. BRADLEY K. DREYER
 BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY W. DRUSHAL
 BRIG. GEN. RAUL E. ESCRIBANO
 BRIG. GEN. JOHN R. EVANS, JR.
 BRIG. GEN. ANTONIO M. FLETCHER
 BRIG. GEN. SEAN A. GAINNEY
 BRIG. GEN. STEVEN W. GILLAND
 BRIG. GEN. MARK W. GILLETTE
 BRIG. GEN. KARL H. GINGRICH
 BRIG. GEN. CHARLES R. HAMILTON
 BRIG. GEN. DAVID C. HILL
 BRIG. GEN. DAVID T. ISAACSON
 BRIG. GEN. KENNETH L. KAMPER
 BRIG. GEN. DONNA W. MARTIN
 BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH P. MCGEE
 BRIG. GEN. PAUL H. PARDEW
 BRIG. GEN. PATRICK B. ROBERSON
 BRIG. GEN. ANDREW M. ROHLING
 BRIG. GEN. MICHEL M. RUSSELL, SR.
 BRIG. GEN. RICHARD M. TOY
 BRIG. GEN. JOEL K. TYLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. WENDY L. HARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHAN K. BAGBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL L. PLACE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ROBERT T. CLARK

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR MISSION SUPPORT, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MICHAEL F. MCALLISTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DANIEL B. ABEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. SCOTT A. BUSCHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. LINDA L. FAGAN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

MCKISA P. FRYER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

MARK A. CRIMALDI
 PHILLIP D. RATHBUN
 DONALD G. SNAVELY
 JAMES A. WATSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

DERRICK J. CHACON
 TODD M. LEEDS

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

SAMANTHA J. SAVAGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

NEIL PARTAIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

GABRIEL F. SANTIAGO

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AS A MEMBER OF THE COAST GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 188:

To be lieutenant commander

KYLE S. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AS A MEMBER OF THE COAST GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 188:

To be lieutenant

MICHAEL S. DAEFFLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

REBECCA A. DREW
 SARAH J. REED

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 24, 2018:

THE JUDICIARY

STUART KYLE DUNCAN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. PAUL M. NAKASONE

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 70th Independence Day of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence from Britain after the expiration of the British Mandate. This declaration created the state of Israel as we recognize it today.

The land of Israel has been home to the Jewish people throughout history. Jewish heritage in the area can be traced back to the Iron Age when the Kingdom of Israel occupied the region. It is in this territory between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas Judaism was founded. Jews ruled Israel during some historical periods and were conquered during others. After many years of uncertainty, the Jewish people were recognized as the rightful occupants of Israel in 1948.

Israel began to establish itself immediately during its early history as a country; it was admitted to the United Nations on May 11, 1949, a little under a year since its inception. Persecuted Jews from around the world, including Holocaust survivors, immigrated to Israel and adopted it as home. Such mass migration gave Israel a population of nearly two million by 1958. A highlight during Israel's early period was the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, mainly the trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1961. The capture of Eichmann from Argentina and his subsequent trial in Israel led to an increased public awareness of Holocaust atrocities.

In the 1970's, Israel was forced to fight off many military threats from neighboring nations. These attacks prompted support from Israel's European and Western allies, strengthening the young nation's global relationships. Israel has been able to partner with two of its former adversaries, Egypt and Jordan, after these threats subsided. While hostility towards Israel still exists, significant progress towards peaceful relationships has been made in recent years.

The economy in Israel has become very highly developed since the late 20th century. The nation enjoys the highest standard of living in the Middle East and the 35th best GDP per capita in the world. This is the result of a diverse and robust economy. Israel is a global innovator of technology and has recently drawn comparisons to Silicon Valley as a result of its success. Israel is also one of the top producers of cut diamonds throughout the world, which accounts for nearly 12 percent of global production.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in praising Israel's 70th anniversary as an independent nation. The United States and Israel have long maintained a friendly relationship based on shared values and mutual inter-

ests. May our bond continue to strengthen into the future, and may Israel continue to prosper in the Middle East for many years to come.

RETIREMENT OF DONNA PROSKE

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Donna Proske for her remarkable career in the healthcare industry.

After graduating from Wagner College with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, Donna Proske was hired as a nurse at Staten Island University Hospital, where she would spend her entire career. During her 30-plus years of service, she went from bedsides to the boardroom. Donna went from waiting on patients as a nurse to Chief Nurse Executive, COO, EVP, and finally Executive Director in 2013. Her commitment to service led to her recently receiving the Above and Beyond Award by New York's City & State publication.

Donna has also served when she was needed most. During Hurricane Irene, she was SIUH's Incident Commander and led the evacuation of the hospital. Moreover, during Superstorm Sandy, she and a barebones staff were able to keep the Emergency Department open even as the water threatened to flood the hospital. Thanks to her efforts, they were able to accept those injured from the hurricane, along with those who needed shelter.

Just a few of Donna's many accomplishments include her role in creating The Jerome L. Finkelstein, MD, Regional Burn Center, Staten Island University Hospital's cardiac surgery program, the Elizabeth A. Connelly Emergency and Trauma Center, and the Regina M. McGinn, MD, Education Center. For one person to have had such an instrumental part in establishing these vital projects is nothing short of astounding. However, her stellar record does not stop there. She has also received the North Shore-LIJ Health System Nursing Leadership Award, Women in Healthcare Award, and the Visiting Nursing Association's Smith Stanley Award. With such a well-decorated career, it is evident that Donna has truly given it her all at SIUH.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Donna Proske on her prodigious career. She is the embodiment of a dedicated and selfless individual. I thank her for everything she has done for the Staten Island community, and I wish her the happiest of retirements.

TRIBUTE TO THE YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the YMCA of the Foothills in La Cañada Flintridge, California upon its 60th anniversary.

In 1952, a small group of community leaders and parents were concerned about the lack of positive activities for youth in the foothills, and reached out to the Glendale YMCA for assistance in offering programs and events. Six years later, in a home in La Cañada, the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA opened; later renamed YMCA of the Foothills. In 1962, led by civic leaders Jack and Bob Samuelson and Scott McDonald, the community built what is now the Crescenta-Cañada YMCA facility in La Cañada. Having grown from an organization based around camping, the YMCA of the Foothills has expanded its operation to include a variety of programs and community activities with hundreds of participants and volunteers.

The YMCA of the Foothills' mission is to strengthen communities through social responsibility, healthy living and youth development, and to enrich the quality of life physically, mentally, spiritually and socially for all persons. For sixty years, they have done just that, by providing children and families with programs ranging from youth leadership, such as the Model United Nations program that teaches youth about global cooperation, healthy living and spiritual awareness to activities for senior citizens. Since the YMCA's inception, almost 4,000 children have been taught about health and fitness, nearly 5,000 girls and boys have learned to swim, and over 10,000 hours of emotional support have been given to help youth with issues such as childhood obesity and suicide prevention.

A lifeline to the community, the YMCA of the Foothills provides resources needed to address critical social issues such as housing, substance abuse, child welfare, education and employment. By uniting people from all walks of life, the YMCA seeks to motivate a spirit of service to be active in and work for positive social change in these and other areas of life.

Today, YMCA of the Foothills has three locations and serves more than 40,000 children, teens, families, and seniors in the Sunland, Tujunga, Sun Valley and northern Glendale areas, in addition to La Cañada Flintridge and La Crescenta. Under the leadership of President Tyler Wright, programs like the 2018 Arts Initiative that support children in their creativity and the Balance and Thrive Initiative to teach senior balance fitness have been launched. Additionally, with events such as the bike-athon, fiesta days and pancake breakfasts, the YMCA of the Foothills has become a center for community engagement.

I am proud to recognize the YMCA of the Foothills for sixty years of dedicated service to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the La Cañada Flintridge and La Crescenta communities. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the YMCA of the Foothills for their remarkable achievements.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of Israel Independence Day:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 70 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 70, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

HONORING THE 2018 RECIPIENTS
OF THE OWENS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Owens Community College Alumni Association takes great pride in its annual Outstanding Service Awards celebration, now in its fifteenth year. The awards honor the selfless contributions of area police, fire, and emergency medical service professionals to our communities. I wanted to share the inspiring stories of six of my constituents who will be recognized at this year's ceremony.

For their heroism in confronting an assailant who had committed two assaults and was threatening to commit murder, Sergeant Bryan Bryant, Officer Gary McClure, and Officer Brent Riley of the Tiffin Police Department, along with Deputy Sheriff Luke Cantu and Deputy Sheriff Jeff Smith of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, will be presented with the Outstanding Police Award. Under fire, these officers returned fire and neutralized the assailant, who later died at the hospital. Their actions prevented further injuries to members

of the public. Deputy Cantu, who was shot in the shoulder, recovered from his injury.

Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Blausey of the Fostoria Fire Division will be presented with the Outstanding Service to Community Award. Throughout his 17-year career with the department, he has become known for his proficiency in handling high-pressure situations. He put this ability to good use in coming to the aid of a pregnant woman who was unconscious and had no pulse. While she did not survive, her baby was saved thanks to Firefighter Blausey's work to stabilize her, transport her to the emergency room, and assist the emergency room doctors.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Outstanding Service Awards celebration will be held on Friday, April 27. I appreciate the opportunity to join the Owens Community College Alumni Association in recognizing the ongoing commitment and sacrifices of these and all of our first responders.

RECOGNIZING KERN CARPENTER
ON INTRODUCTION TO DADE
COUNTY FARM BUREAU HALL OF
HONOR

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Director Kern Carpenter of the Miami-Dade County Farm Bureau, on his introduction into the Farm Bureau Hall of Honor.

A third generation farmer with a rich history in tomato production; Mr. Carpenter and his family have dedicated their lives to preserving the beauty and prestige of Florida's agriculture.

At a young age, Kern lost his father to cancer and not long after, the farm he loved. However, Kern never lost sight of his family's heritage and worked hard to one day run his very own farm.

In 1983, Kern successfully renewed his family's farming legacy and opened Kern Carpenter Farms.

Today, that passion and drive Kern possessed at such a young age, continues to impact so many farmers and serves as an inspiration throughout our South Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Kern that encompass the American spirit we all hold so dear. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors, and congratulate him on this much deserved honor.

Congratulations my friend. (Felicidades amigo).

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT THOMAS
H. COREY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Sergeant Thomas H. Corey, Vietnam veteran and tireless advocate for his fellow servicemen and women.

Mr. Corey was leading his squad in what came to be known as the Tet Offensive in early 1968 when he was paralyzed from the neck down by an enemy bullet. After his recovery he moved to South Florida where his activism work began. He joined the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in 1980, and the following year became the founding president of VVA Palm Beach County Chapter 25, now known as the Thomas H. Corey Chapter. Mr. Corey was the first recipient of VVA's Commendation Medal, the organization's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community. He has held a multitude of leadership positions within VVA, culminating with his election as National President in 2001. In addition to his work with VVA, he is a member of the National Association of Uniformed Services, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the 1st Cavalry Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association.

Since 1994, Mr. Corey has made 16 trips to Vietnam to bridge the gap between former foes. While there he has discussed issues of mutual importance, such as the treatment of prisoners of war and the effects of Agent Orange. In recognition of his efforts, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I have been privileged to know Mr. Corey for many years and have seen first-hand his incredible work throughout our area. It has made him a truly beloved member of the South Florida community.

HONORING CUBA LITTLE LEAGUE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteers who organized this month's Little League Basketball Championship in Cuba, New Mexico. I am proud that I had the opportunity to attend this event and speak with many of the athletes, coaches, and parents.

We have a fundamental obligation to ensure that our children grow up in safe, healthy environments that will set them up for long-term wellness. Organized community sports leagues are integral to this goal and foster healthy lifestyles, exercise, and a strong sense of community. These leagues not only provide children with a fun way to stay healthy, but also promote important character traits like teamwork, sportsmanship, determination, and work ethic that will help them throughout their lives.

I am honored to specifically mention several volunteers who helped organize this wonderful event, including Directors Jared and Anita Maestas, Caroline Lovato, Kirby Borders, Joy Borders, Julian Sanchez, Marissa Aragon, Janell Toledo, Isaac Montoya, Jessica Romero, Kee Boshara, and Loretta Hidalgo.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, I want to thank the hard-working volunteers who helped organize the Little League Basketball Championship for Cuba's children and community.

HONORING THE 2018 OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Military Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbus on May 4 to mark the induction of its 2018 class. Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to only a few hundred Ohioans since 2000. To be considered for induction, individuals must have been decorated for heroic actions in a combat situation. I am honored to commend to the House this year's 30 inductees:

Senior Chief Sonarman Edward C. Byers, Jr., currently living in Little Creek, Virginia, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy veteran of the War in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul (posthumously), recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Ronald K. Westfall of Bloomingdale, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Corporal Donald A. Campbell (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Nicholas W. Denman of Wooster, recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Major Larry N. Fealy (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Wilford E. Frash of McConnelsville, recipient of the Silver Star, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Thomas L. Henning (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class Robert F. Holtz of North Royalton, recipient of the Silver Star, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

Staff Sergeant James L. Messerschmitt of Cincinnati, recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Captain Edgar C. Fell, currently living in Atlanta, Georgia, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Chief Warrant Officer Second Class John E. Grafmiller of Upper Sandusky, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Captain John C. McFarren of Cincinnati, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War.

Chief Warrant Officer Second Class David A. Walls of Westerville, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant John C. Babyak of Poland, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War.

Sergeant First Class Danny W. Bell of Cincinnati, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Sergeant Jack W. Born of Parma, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Captain Thomas P. Casey of Beavercreek, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Private First Class Clayton H. Compher (posthumously), recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of World War II.

Signalman First Class Conard J. Conway of Mount Vernon, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Navy veteran of World War II.

Private First Class Paul L. Feathers of Fremont, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Donald I. Jakeway of Johnstown, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of World War II.

Sergeant John P. Luft of Gahanna, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant John F. McAllister of Delaware, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant First Class Donald D. Schweitzer of Wapakoneta, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Specialist Roy R. Sprague of Kent, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Robert E. Watson of Batavia, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

First Lieutenant Walter A. Bettcher of Bay Village, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Jack E. Kasee of Batavia, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Captain Kevin B. Lombardo, currently living in Papillon, Nebraska, recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Air Force veteran of the War in Iraq.

HONORING THE NURSES OF METHODIST LE BONHEUR HEALTHCARE

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, there are 3 million registered nurses in the United States that comprise our nation's largest health care profession. Today I rise to honor National Nurses Week May 6–12, 2018, and my friends working within Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

When I first became a nurse more than 40 years ago, I took an oath to "devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care." I still consider the words of that oath today in the decisions I make as a Member of Congress—particularly in matters of protecting the most vulnerable among us.

In that same oath, we also pledge ourselves before God to practice our profession faithfully. Nursing is not simply an occupation—it's a calling, and those are powerful words that we carry with us day in and day out.

Every day, registered nurses are working to chart a new course for a healthy nation and it is a privilege to honor them, and celebrate the ways in which they inspire, innovate, and influence to provide safe and high quality patient care.

Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system and I am proud to recognize the out-

standing men and women of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. We should show our appreciation for our nation's registered nurses not just during National Nurses Week, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. MARK CHEW, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mark Chew, a pastor and public servant, who passed away on April 6, 2018. Rev. Dr. Mark Chew, Jr. committed much of his life to serving Denton in a variety of roles.

Though he was born in Mississippi, Reverend Chew grew deep North Texas roots. He attended Fred Moore High School in Denton and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas before receiving an associate's degree from North Central Texas College, a bachelor's degree from Southern Bible Institute, and a Doctorate of Divinity from the International Bible School in Houston.

In 1967, Reverend Chew began his pastorate at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Throughout his half-century of pastoral ministry there, he oversaw the development of Outreach Ministry and Rays of Hope. Reverend Chew celebrated his 50-year pastoral anniversary in December 2017, a rare achievement.

Spurred by his love for the community, Reverend Chew served the people of Denton far beyond his local church. In 1981, he became the first African American elected to the Denton City Council, serving three full terms in the 1980s and two additional consecutive terms in the 1990s. In addition to serving as President of the Denton County NAACP for 8 years, Reverend Chew was an active member of the Lions Club, the Denton Public Utility Board of Directors, and the Camp Copass Board of Directors. He also was Chaplain at both Peoples Funeral Home and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton.

Reverend Chew has left a rich legacy of service to faith, family, and community. I extend my condolences to his wife of 38 years, Dr. Rose Marie Chew, their family, the members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, and all who knew him.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the United States Army Reserve which celebrated its 110th anniversary on April 23rd.

What began in 1908 as a tiny corps of medical professionals held in readiness for service is today the Army's global operational reserve force—meeting high optempo demands, generating forces to support the National Military

Strategy and Army commitments worldwide, and providing mission-critical forces and capabilities in direct support of America's active duty forces.

Through two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror and countless other crises, operations and emergencies, the Army Reserve has never failed to answer the Nation's call.

Today our Nation faces new threats, from multiple sources, that challenge U.S. military dominance across every domain. And again, the Army Reserve is rising to the challenge, creating a Ready Force of units and individual Soldiers postured to move fast, engage quickly, and win decisively on the battlefields of today and tomorrow.

The world is rapidly changing but one thing is constant: The Army Reserve will remain the dedicated federal reserve of the most decisive and lethal land force in the world—ready now, shaping tomorrow; forging the most capable, combat-ready and lethal Army Reserve in U.S. history. And so, I wish the Army Reserve another Happy Birthday, and many more years of success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Boyne District Library upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Through its trusted service, reliable staff, and community investment, the Boyne District Library has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Opened in April 1918 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the private book collection of a Petoskey lawyer, and an incredibly determined staff, the library grew into the local institution it is today. Over the course of 100 years, the Boyne District Library forged its path to success while maintaining its commitment to the community it was built upon. Today, the library still stands at its original spot on the corner of Park and Main Street in Boyne City.

To celebrate its 100th Anniversary, the library has issued a challenge to patrons of all ages to read 100 books over the course of the year. Additionally, it hosted an event in February which included a presentation on the history of the Boyne District Library—from the original grant application in 1916 to the present. Later this summer, the anniversary will continue to be celebrated through events like an ice cream social and bookmobile visit. Day after day, the Boyne District Library continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Boyne District Library and its staff for 100 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Boyne District Library all the best in its future endeavors.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS PROVIDE VALUE TO RESIDENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, community associations are an expanding phenomenon and the preferred form of new residential developments approved by local governments across this country. These developments consist of planned communities in the form of condominiums, cooperatives, and single-family homes. Local governments appreciate these developments because they offer residents private amenities such as pools, sport courts, parks, walking trails, and other amenities that would otherwise be provided and maintained with public dollars. In fact, an estimated \$88 billion is collected annually in dues from community association residents to pay for essential association obligations including the installation and maintenance of amenities.

The growth of planned communities is showcasing a residency choice selected by more and more Americans each year. As of 2017, approximately 70 million Americans reside in nearly 350,000 community associations across the country. Residents enjoy this type of living for a number of reasons including a sense of community, access to aforementioned private amenities, enforcement of aesthetic standards set by the community, and regular maintenance of common areas. With democratically elected resident board members who volunteer to serve their community, this is arguably the most local form of government (quasi) that exists. Related to this, an estimated 2.36 million residents volunteer for service on their community's board of directors or other committees performing 80 million hours of volunteer service valued at \$1.93 billion. Those are significant numbers.

The financial benefit enjoyed by residents in planned communities is that home values are historically four to five percent higher than homes that are not in planned communities. That translates into the positive protection of property values in these communities and a higher return on investment when it comes time for owners to sell.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that approximately half of these communities are self-managed either with just volunteers or professional staff hired and managed directly by the association's board of directors. The rest of these associations hire professional management companies to manage the operation of their communities and/or their finances and provide counsel to the board of directors.

Personally, I'm proud of the fact that the largest community association management company, Associa, is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, in my Congressional District. Associa employs nearly 10,000 people across North America in 180 office locations operating in 35 states as well as Canada and Mexico. Associa manages roughly 10,000 communities, comprising more than 2.5 million units, and housing more than 5 million residents. Associa is a privately-owned company that was started by John Carona more than 40 years ago and he continues to lead the industry with constant innovation and unparalleled customer service. John is not only a successful businessman,

but he is a humble public servant having served 24 years in the Texas State Legislature. I am proud to call him a supporter and friend of mine.

Mr. Speaker, I offer these comments today because as community associations continue to grow they also continue to evolve as does the community association management industry. I am pleased that management companies like Associa are not satisfied with business-as-usual but rather choose to invest in world-class employee training and cutting edge technologies for their clients. By doing so, they help ensure well-run community associations and well-informed board members and residents. I extend my appreciation to Associa's employees and to the volunteers in community associations around the country for their service to their clients and communities.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our friend and ally, Israel, on its recent Independence Day. 70 years ago, after centuries of expulsions, pogroms, prejudice, and persecution, the Jewish people celebrated their return to Israel and the establishment of a land where they could live in peace and prosperity.

We are all too aware that Israel has repeatedly faced grave threats to this peace, and must regularly defend its very existence against those who would destroy her. Despite these threats, for the last seven decades, the Israeli people have stood strong in defense of freedom and democracy, and built a thriving nation. After this historic anniversary, let us in the United States Congress reaffirm our commitment to our ally. Since its independence, our nations have had a special relationship, deeply rooted in shared democratic principles and values.

Our nations are both free and vibrant democracies, and together, we can create a safer world. We live in dangerous times, with enemies who threaten Americans and Israelis alike. Our joint counterterrorism and military efforts are essential for the prosperity of both of our nations. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this member of the House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Israel on their 70th anniversary and reaffirm our commitment: Israel, we stand with you.

ALEXIS RUNNING BEAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexis Running Bear for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Alexis Running Bear is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexis Running Bear is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexis Running Bear for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE HONORABLE BARBARA LEE FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congressman PETE AGUILAR, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congresswoman NANETTE BARRAGÁN, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congressman SALUD CARBAJAL, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congressman LOU CORREA, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congressman JIMMY GOMEZ, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congressman RO KHANNA, Congressman TED LIEU, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman NORMA TORRES, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to commemorate my distinguished colleague, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, as she celebrates her 20th anniversary in the United States House of Representatives.

Throughout her career representing the East Bay of California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE has fought to turn our nation's promise of peace, equality and justice for all into a reality. Her legislative accomplishments are many and varied, but they are all rooted in the universal goal of uplifting the marginalized and under-represented. She has been relentless in her commitment to addressing and alleviating poverty, ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and advancing a vision of U.S. foreign policy that actively promotes global peace and security.

As a young working mother who relied on public assistance while raising her sons, Congresswoman LEE knows firsthand the challenges faced by those living in poverty. She has rightly called out the moral atrocity that is America's epidemic of poverty. Since 2013, she has served as Chair of the Democratic Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity, which is finding so-

lutions to end the scourge of poverty. Congresswoman LEE has also made addressing institutionalized racism and racial wealth disparities a cornerstone of her approach. On the Appropriations Committee, she works tirelessly to protect and expand programs like unemployment insurance, housing assistance, child care, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Congresswoman LEE has also been a consistent force for ending HIV/AIDS domestically and globally. She has authored or co-sponsored every major piece of legislation dealing with the AIDS crisis since entering Congress, including bills to establish the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Due to this groundbreaking legislation, the United States is a world leader in responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and ending this public health emergency for good.

Congresswoman BARBARA LEE is also a leading voice for global peace and security. She is best known for her brave lone opposition to the open-ended 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force that passed by Congress just three days after the September 11th attacks. Her foresight in predicting that this war authorization would be used as a blank check for perpetual war has proved prescient; today, this AUMF remains the legal basis for more than 40 military operations around the world. 16 years later, Congresswoman LEE remains persistent in her efforts to repeal the AUMF, and last year achieved a historic victory when her repeal bill was adopted by a bipartisan and nearly unanimous vote of the Appropriations Committee.

Congresswoman LEE has fought to strengthen ties with countries around the world—serving three times as the U.S. Congressional Representative to the United Nations. Her decades of persistent advocacy for normalizing relations with Cuba was integral to the re-opening of the U.S. embassy on the island. Through her position on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Congresswoman LEE has been a vocal champion of soft power initiatives, securing life-saving funding for foreign development, nutrition and health care programs. Her leadership positions in Congress include: Vice Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee (2017–present), Vice Chair and founding member of the LGBT Equality Caucus, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, and Co-Chair of the Sudan and South Sudan Caucus.

She is the former chair (2008–2010) of the Congressional Black Caucus, a former co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, where she serves as co-Chair of the Health Care Task Force. Congresswoman LEE is a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee, and previously served on the Banking, International Relations, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs committees.

Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's extraordinary work makes her an invaluable member of Congress. Today we celebrate her passion, commitment, and dedication to public service these past 20 years, and express our admiration that she remains a renegade for peace and justice. We send her our highest regards and best wishes as she crosses this incredible milestone.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF EDWIN "DAVID" COLWELL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Edwin "David" Colwell, 87, who passed away on Sunday, April 15, 2018.

David was born on March 14, 1931 in Vinton, Ohio to the late Everett and Grace Colwell, nee Kincaid. He was a proud OSU grad, and the first college grad in his family. He was in ROTC/Air Force and after graduation served as a pilot flying over the Sea of Japan to bring food to our armed forces in Korea after the end of the Korean War.

After his honorable discharge as a Captain, David returned to Ohio and married his first wife Janice Fike in Ashland, Ohio. They had 2 dear daughters, Cappi and Camilla. After 22 years of marriage, Janice passed in 1983. Professionally, David began his career with The Kroger Company, first in the bakery, then through the ranks until he headed up the "Cookies, Crackers and Snacks Division", which was very popular with the kids in the neighborhood. It was during this time, during the early '70s that David began developing his real estate business, focusing on housing for Ohio State students. E. David's Properties continues to house students annually. It has housed thousands over almost 40 years. David was a very popular landlord, receiving Valentine's Day cards and invitations to his renters' graduation parties. He loved the students and was so proud of their accomplishments!

David enjoyed travelling the world with his wife Jolene, knowing no stranger, relishing different cultures and traditions, and always ready to plan the next trip. They loved Europe, particularly Poland and the Czech Republic, and their 30 years of beach vacations in Mexico where they had so many loving friends. There was no more passionate an OSU sports fan than David. He held season tickets for football and basketball. He and his best bud, Harvey, were always sure that their coaching expertise could help the Bucks win!

For 30 years, David has been married to Jolene Moritz Molitoris who is a friend of mine and long-time public servant and transportation leader. Jolene was an official at the Ohio Department of Transportation when President Clinton appointed her as the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration and later she served as Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

There was no more passionate a family man than David. He was so proud of all the family accomplishments. He so loved his family. He will be missed beyond imagining by his wife Jolene; and his children, Cappi, Camilla, spouse, Harold, Jill, Jay, spouse, Catherine; grandchildren, Calina, Devin and Ellis; and his sister, Catherine; and his beloved dogs, Choo Choo and Teddy.

I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

FRAN BAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fran Baker for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Fran Baker is the Executive Director of Enrichment for the Gold Crown Foundation where she oversees program development, community outreach and fundraising efforts. However, Fran's first love is fashion. She started her career as a fashion buyer for May Company in Denver, after receiving a marketing degree from The Fashion Institute of Technology at NYU. She left the fashion industry and dedicated several years to raising her children. While raising her children, she returned to school to receive her BA in Early Childhood Development and teaching certificate from Metro State University.

For nine years, she worked as a Title One Reading Teacher and Literacy Coach in Jefferson County. From there, she went on to lead a needs assessment for the planning, designing and implementation of the Enrichment programs for the Gold Crown Foundation's Field House. Under Fran's direction, Gold Crown Enrichment was awarded licensing for the international after school program, "The Clubhouse." She worked to develop the relationship with Jefferson County schools to establish programming during the school day, which has served thousands of students from neighboring elementary and middle schools. After providing Enrichment programs for 14 years at the Field House, Gold Crown recently opened a second Clubhouse in Edgewater. Fran currently serves on the board for the Clubhouse Network, which includes 100 Clubhouse sites in 19 countries.

Congratulations to Fran Baker for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her continued dedication to our community.

HONORING RISE AWARD
RECIPIENT, KIM KARNOFSKI

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Karnofski, a constituent of mine from Castle Rock, Washington. Kim is receiving the prestigious Recognizing Inspirational School Employees Award for her outstanding service to the students of Washington state and I'm proud to recognize her achievement today.

Since 1988, Kim has served as an invaluable resource to students and families of Castle Rock. She has dedicated her life to leading service projects in her community, working with credit recovery students to help them achieve post-graduation success and even implementing a Life Fitness P.E. program to teach healthy habits to students. Kim also devoted her time as a member of the Public

School Employees of Washington SEIU Local 1948, serving as an advocate for her colleagues dedicated to serving our students.

The RISE Award is presented by the National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions, a coalition of state and national unions that represent one million school support employees. Five individuals from across the country are recognized for their extraordinary efforts to promote quality education, foster positive learning environments and ensure student success. The award is given to those who have made exceptional contributions to education, promoting student achievement, student safety, as well as helping to build a brighter future for our children.

I was very proud to learn about Kim and the work she's done to become one of those five individuals recognized for their exemplary service to students, and I am equally proud to have her as a member of Southwest Washington's community. I want to congratulate Kim on receiving this well-deserved award and thank her for her unwavering leadership and contributions to the students of Castle Rock.

IN HONOR OF TRICIA STILES
SIMPSON

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable woman who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the people of the northern Shenandoah Valley.

With the retirement of Tricia Stiles Simpson from her position as Legislative Assistant to Virginia State Senator Jill Vogel, those attending the 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly experienced a clear loss of energy, enthusiasm, honesty and intelligence that constitute this extraordinary human being.

A gifted speaker and writer, Tricia has always displayed natural leadership skills and has been highly sought after for a variety of boards and commissions. Over the years, she has generously given of her time, energy and money to a wide variety of organizations, serving as chairman or vice chairman of the following: Frederick County School Board, to which she was elected and reelected; United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley; Frederick County Department of Social Services; Winchester Branch of the American Association of University Women; Shenandoah Valley Private Industry Council; and Tri-County VA Opportunities Industrialization Center.

As one who has consistently lived her life out of the conviction that each individual has inherent dignity and worth, Tricia Stiles Simpson's overriding passion has been to serve and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our society, especially disabled children. During her 35 years of service to individuals with disabilities, Tricia has been an award-winning Special Education Teacher in Clarke County; Director of Rehabilitation Services for Northwestern Workshop; National Project Director of the National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; administrator at Grafton School; and Executive Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Child Advocacy Center.

In each of these positions, as well as during the 10 years she spent as Senator Vogel's Legislative Assistant, Tricia generously gave of her time and energies to those struggling with almost every challenge imaginable, treating each with honesty and compassion, so that they left her presence knowing that they had been heard and respected. Asked how she managed to deal so successfully with confused and troubled people, Simpson explained her simple three-part rule: "Say what you mean and do what you say; be consistent; and love them absolutely."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and thanking Tricia Stiles Simpson for her extraordinary career serving the people of the northern Shenandoah Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia and wishing her and her husband, HB Simpson, many years of continued happiness in their retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL
YEAR OF McDONOGH 35 SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Year of McDonogh 35 Senior High School. McDonogh 35 Senior High School is the oldest public high school established for African-Americans in New Orleans, Louisiana. The year 1917 was a crucial year in educational advancement for African-Americans in the city. After decades of being denied the opportunity to attend public schools beyond the eighth grade, African-American students would have a public high school that offered courses that prepared them to attend the colleges throughout the city of New Orleans.

Despite the location of McDonogh 35, in a section of the city that once housed brothels, barrooms, and boarding houses, the school would become a beacon of hope and pride to New Orleans' black community. For decades, the campus on South Rampart and Girod Streets was not equipped to serve with fidelity the needs of its students. Science labs were not modernized. There was no gymnasium to provide fitness for student-athletes. Moreover, many students took it upon themselves to provide nutritious meals for their classmates by preparing food by growing gardens of fresh produce. It was, for those times, an unsustainable set of low conditions.

Despite these circumstances, the students achieved accomplishments in the academic, artistic, and athletic fields of education—and also took on the challenges of addressing the social injustices of their day. Even with the destruction to their fifty-year-old building by Hurricane Betsy in 1965, this situation did not discourage the McDonogh 35 community from achieving excellence. The students continued to excel as they called a federal courthouse and an older school building home—until the opening of the historic Kerlerec Street building in 1972. In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck the city, the returning students of McDonogh 35 rallied and fought to have their school opened, making passionate pleas to the Orleans Parish School Board for the restoration of this historic institution. In 2015, a

state-of-the-art campus in the Columbia Parc area offers students opportunities to make strong strides in academics, arts, and athletics—and to add their unique contributions to the legacy of this celebrated institution.

Throughout the course of its journey, the McDonogh 35 legacy has been strengthened by its continuance of educating students to their highest potential, daring them to open their minds to learning about the world outside of their neighborhoods, and earning prestigious honors and accolades for their ambitious efforts. Through these 100 years of trial, triumph, and transition, the presence of McDonogh 35 has graced the city landscape by educating the most prominent civic servants, educators, business moguls, athletes, and proud citizens—past and present. Now that it has reached that glorious milestone of 100 years, the entire Roneagle Nation is ready to celebrate A Century of Soaring: the McDonogh 35 Centennial Celebration. New Orleans should be proud to claim McDonogh 35 Senior High School as an important landmark for its impact made to our city's history.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud McDonogh 35 Senior High School's commitment to educating our youth and celebrate their centennial year. McDonogh 35 Senior High School is a school with an unpromising beginning, but blessed with a legacy and future that will take it beyond its 100 years of importance.

JOHN BANDIMERE, JR.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor John Bandimere, Jr. for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

For the past 60 years, John Bandimere, Jr. has been the driving force behind the successful Bandimere Speedway team as the second-generation owner and operator of the quarter-mile drag strip that bears his family's name. The Bandimere family has always been in the automotive industry through manufacturing, auto parts sales, machine work, racing or other automotive-related businesses but they have called the beautiful Colorado foothills home for the past six decades. In 1958, his father and mother, John Sr. and Frances, founded the speedway west of Denver. Originally called the Safety Proving Grounds of America and built as a location for testing the limits of the automobile in a safe environment, the NHRA-sanctioned speedway is now known as "Thunder Mountain."

John Jr. continues to be a visible figure at Bandimere Speedway as he provides encouragement and well-respected leadership to the staff, community and guests. Most recently, his official title became Chairman of the Board as well as CSO—Chief Spiritual Officer. John Jr. has been actively involved in the Jeffco community for years serving on multiple boards including, but not limited to, Guaranty Bank West Advisory Board, West Metro Chamber Board, National Hot Rod Associa-

tion, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Cherry Hills Community Church, Colorado Motorsports Hall of Fame Advisory Board and many others.

Congratulations to John Bandimere, Jr. for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his continued dedication to our community.

HONORING MS. ESTHER MOORE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Esther Moore, the author of a recent book entitled *Placitas*. This book describes the vibrant, diverse community and residents of Cuba, New Mexico.

While the village may be small, it reflects the best of the state, including hard-working families and a rich history and culture. That is why I was so honored to meet and talk with Esther at a book signing about her inspiration for the book and how proud she is of her community.

While I was visiting the village, I also had the pleasure of attending their Little League Basketball Championship. This tournament gave me the opportunity to meet many of Cuba's residents including the parents, coaches, players, and volunteers who were there. I was struck by the strong sense of community in such a small town, and I am proud that Esther's book will ensure that people all over the country will be able to experience a slice of what I loved so much about Cuba, New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, I want to congratulate Esther Moore on becoming a published author, and thank her for the work she has done to educate us about the Cuba, New Mexico community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SALINE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Saline County Homemakers Education Association.

Since they first organized in 1918, members of the Saline County Homemakers have been devoted to improving the lives of women, children, families, and communities within their region. Through emphasizing the importance of the human and spiritual values of life, they have also sought to promote the development of positive role models and strong community leaders. Their programs and meetings have continued to provide Saline County residents with opportunities for friendship, personal growth, and community service.

The Saline County Homemakers Education Association will be sharing their history with the community in a ceremony on Saturday, April 28 at the McKinley Baptist Church Education building in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my congratulations to Saline County Homemakers Education Association for their continued success and dedication to their mission.

STEVE BURKHOLDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Steve Burkholder for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Steve grew up in metro Denver and moved to Lakewood in 1963. He became Lakewood Mayor from 1999 and served until 2007. During his tenure, he was president of the Colorado Municipal League, was a member of the Metro Mayors Executive Committee and was the chair of numerous committees in the National League of Cities. In the private sector, he was involved in the wholesale trade for many years and then served as the principal of the A & S Group, a consulting and marketing organization, for 17 years. He retired from actively consulting and facilitating in 2011.

Aside from his tenure as Mayor, Steve is also known for founding the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) Jeffco, an initiative of the Jeffco Schools Foundation. PCHP's mission is to positively impact school readiness and long-term learning for two- and three-year olds from high risk and vulnerable families. Steve serves as a current PCHP board member, and is a founding board member of a recently-formed organization, the Jeffco Human Services Foundation.

In his continuing quest for civil dialogue, Steve has served as a member of the executive committee at the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado and as a fellow at the Institute on the Common Good at Regis University. He is also a past chairman of the board of the West Metro Chamber and was the founding chairman of Leadership Jefferson County, now in its 35th year at the Chamber.

Congratulations to Steve Burkholder for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his continued dedication to our community.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF THE LATE HONORABLE LOUISE SLAUGHTER

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, Louise Slaughter was my friend—and the one thing I always knew is that she had my back.

When we went to Rochester, New York for her service, I was struck by the many people who lined the streets for her wearing Louise buttons. I knew then that she had their backs too.

She made each person feel special. Maybe it was her southern twang that pulled you in, or the sparkle in her eyes.

I first met Louise when I joined the House Rules Committee. I was new to Congress.

I barely understood the rules of the House, and I found myself assigned to the Rules Committee.

Louise took me under her wing and taught me not only the Rules of the House, but the Rules of Louise:

Be cordial. Be kind. Know your stuff. Understand it is a privilege to serve in the House of Representatives. Always stay true to your word and fight for what you believe is right. And also, of course, laugh. Which she and I did a lot.

We spent many memorable days and long nights together while I was on the Rules Committee, particularly during the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

I remember her husband Bob being there, he was practically an honorary Rules Committee member.

Louise's leadership kept everyone around her going through late nights, and her unfailing wit helped ease tense days.

A longtime advocate for public health, Louise knew how important it was to expand access to healthcare in this country. Her tenacity and dedication helped usher through the Affordable Care Act in the House, helping even the playing field for families seeking care.

Louise traced her lineage back to Daniel Boone.

She was a pioneer herself. The daughter of a blacksmith in Lynch, Kentucky, she went on to fight for the people of New York in the New York State Assembly, and then in the United States Congress.

When she came to the House of Representatives in 1987, there were only 25 female legislators here. But Louise wasn't intimidated. She was a fierce, skilled legislator who became an example for all of those who came after her.

Not far from Louise's district is the site of the historic Seneca Falls Convention. Louise drew from that history and spent her career championing the causes of women everywhere.

She was the first woman to serve as Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee. She spearheaded the landmark Violence Against Women Act and the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

She fought for, and secured, federal funding for the National Institutes of Health, and was instrumental in the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health.

And she co-founded the Pro-Choice Caucus, serving as a passionate proponent for women having the power to forge their own destinies until her last days in Congress.

At the heart of all of these legislative accomplishments is a common thread—Louise wanted to help people who were traditionally underrepresented. She wanted to give them a voice, and she did.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton said, "The best protector any woman can have . . . is courage."

Louise's courage to fight for her progressive ideals, to stand up for equality, and to ensure working families in her district had opportunities was a model for young girls everywhere and really a model for all of us here in Congress.

It was Maya Angelou who said, "Each time a woman stands up for herself . . . she stands up for all women."

That's what Louise did. And, as she stood up for other women, she always stayed true to who she was. She was genuine. She was a fighter. She loved people. And she was kind.

Her passion for the arts and music bridged all of her life experiences. She loved everything from the songs of the 1950s and '60s, to gospel music, to hard rock, to classical music.

It was that authenticity and approachability, paired with her pioneering spirit, which made her both so tenacious and so well-loved.

As much as Louise loved Congress, she also loved her family and took such great pride in them. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy in her three daughters, seven grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

When I go to the Rules Committee, I feel her presence, I hear her strong opinions, and I know that she is happy now reunited with her dear husband Bob and chairing the Rules Committee from up high.

Louise Rules.

THE ENFORCER—FIRST LADY
BARBARA BUSH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, December of 1941 brought the United States into one of the deadliest wars in our history, but it also brought together the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. History.

At a dance in Rye, New York, 16-year-old Barbara Pierce, a high school junior home on break from her school in South Carolina, caught the eye of 17-year-old George Herbert Walker Bush, a high school senior.

Love was in the air, and the two became engaged a year and a half later. While George was deployed in the Pacific during the latter stages of World War II, he penned letters to his "darling Bar" expressing the joy that she brought him.

The couple finally married on January 6, 1945, and for 73 years Barbara remained at George's side.

Barbara was an iconic woman and truly embodied what it meant to be a public servant in this country. She stood beside the American people through decades of major political events, from the Cold War to the terrorist attacks on September 11th, providing a reliable, steady presence that never failed to induce calm into those around her.

She led our nation as First Lady with dignity, grace and more than a little bit of wit. She watched two of her sons follow in their father's footsteps in bids for the U.S. Presidency and provided invaluable support to her son, George W. Bush, during his time in office. As a wife and mother of presidents, she taught us all the value of our families.

During her time as wife of the Vice-President and eventually First Lady, Barbara Bush became one of our country's greatest advocates for education and literacy. She started her own foundation, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, in 1989 and her influence helped pass the National Literacy Act into law in 1991. As a result of her dedication to this cause, tens of millions of Americans have learned to read and write, and several million more were given another opportunity to graduate high school.

While she was not born in Texas, she eventually made the state home and forged a special bond with the place and its people. From supporting students across Texas and the Houston Metro area, to cheering on the Astros with her husband, her good will and magnetic personality left an indelible mark upon communities in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Bush died as she lived, a strong Texas woman. She will be missed dearly by all Americans, especially those of us from Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR.
WALLACE MARTIN

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions and life of Mr. Wallace Martin from Carrizo Springs, Texas.

Wallace's roots run deep in South Texas. In 1948, Mr. Martin took over Dixondale Farms, growing onion transplants, cabbage, carrots and cauliflower. However, Wallace's career began in the military. He honorably served his nation in World War II, when he flew over Omaha Beach on D-day, and conducted numerous heroic missions throughout Germany.

As a farmer, Wallace oversaw the growth and expansion of Dixondale Farms during railroad expansions and stoppages, hard freezes, and moves. His leadership is truly a testament to the character and spirit of Texas's 23rd Congressional District.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. Wallace Martin this past August. I saw Mr. Martin at a Town Hall and was able to speak to his contribution to the community.

Wallace Martin passed away on January 25, 2018, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy and family. While we mourn the loss of this great man, I know his reputation and the values he represented will live on through his family, his friends, and community. I would like to extend my most sincere condolences to Mr. Martin's family during this difficult time and am proud to recognize all that he did for the great state of Texas and the United States of America.

DR. HARRIET HALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Harriet Hall for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Dr. Harriet Hall is most admired for her advocacy and unwavering commitment to people with mental health disorders, their families and our community. Her passion and tireless efforts have impacted the lives of thousands of individuals living with mental illness.

During her 34 years as Jefferson Center CEO & President, Harriet has worked to reduce the stigma of mental illness, to bring the public's attention to urgent matters of mental health and collaborated with government and business leaders to produce innovative changes for mental health care. Within hours after the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School, under Harriet's leadership, Jefferson Center mobilized resources and helped lead the mental health crisis response. For the next three years, Jefferson Center provided leadership, services and infrastructure for programs that helped the community heal.

Harriett's relationships within the community have resulted in significant change and new, innovative programs, and her commitment to our community is immeasurable. She has received numerous awards for her much-needed work in the community.

Congratulations to Dr. Harriet Hall for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her continued dedication to our community.

HONORING THE SARATOGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1978, the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) has been instrumental in fostering economic growth in Saratoga County. By working to both retain existing businesses and attract new jobs and industry to the county, SEDC has helped build Saratoga County into the thriving region that we know today. As a private investor-led, non-profit consulting firm, SEDC works with nearly 300 employers on projects to improve the quality of life for residents. Over the past 40 years, SEDC brought over 18,000 jobs to Saratoga County and \$16.5 billion in capital investment, significant achievements that I am proud to honor today.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I want to thank the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation for 40 years of hard work and dedication to improving the Saratoga community. I look forward to watching them continue to succeed for many years to come.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MASTER SERGEANT JERRE S. THOMAS II

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Sergeant Jerre S. Thomas, II. Master Sergeant Thomas served as a United States Marine, and was loved by all who met him.

During his time in the Marine Corps, the Master Sergeant served his country with honor and pride. He would go on to work within the Department of Defense and the White House

Press Corps under President's George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. During this time, as a Master Instructor of Photography, Jerre was able to teach hundreds of Marines the skills of photography and videography.

Master Sergeant Thomas enjoyed the company of his community and was a member of the Quantico Town Council where he would serve the community until his passing. He loved his children and his country which I believe is evident by his commitment to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others as we recognize the many contributions of Master Sergeant Jerre S. Thomas, II.

ADDISON PAGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Addison Page for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Addison Page is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Addison Page is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Addison Page for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF KATHRYN LIEBERTH LYTTON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Kathryn Lieberth Lytton who passed away on April 1, 2018, age 37.

Born Kathryn Moffat Lieberth, Kate Lytton died two weeks shy of her 38th birthday following a year-long battle with breast cancer, a fight that she waged until the very last hour with her unyielding wit and incomparable stoicism.

Kate was an accomplished young teacher of classical and modern ballet. She first started dancing at the age of three after seeing a Summer Festival performance of Ohio Ballet in Forest Lodge Park. She began her study at the University of Akron Dance Institute under Gina Carroll. She continued her pre-professional training under Nan Klinger, performing for eight seasons with the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet. She also danced in the 1992 International Children's Festival in Taiwan. After graduating with honors from Our Lady of the Elms, Kate continued her education at the

University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Ballet and a trainee with Ballet West. Feeling that she was "getting old," she left college to become an apprentice at Richmond (Virginia) Ballet. For the next 12 years, she performed with various ballets including Ballet Memphis, Oakland Ballet, and Company C Contemporary Ballet.

Kate later returned to school to further her education in anatomy and kinesiology through multiple dance and fitness certification programs. In 2011, Kate became the Dance Program Manager at Google Headquarters in Mountain View, CA. She grew the employee dance program from a few social dance classes a week to a comprehensive dance training program across multiple disciplines, eventually overseeing programming at 50 Google offices globally, and supervising 200 dance instructors worldwide.

Kate returned to Akron in 2014 to raise a family with her husband Alec. She joined the faculties of the University of Akron Dance Institute, the Excellence in Dance studio in Cuyahoga Falls, and the 8-count dance studio in Green. She also served as the administrator for Ballet Excel Ohio's Reach Out and Dance program that gave many students in the Akron Public Schools their first exposure to dance, and she especially loved working with students with disabilities. Kate also taught many barre classes throughout the community. Kate is the daughter of David Lieberth, one of Akron's prominent community leaders who served as Deputy Mayor.

She is survived by her husband, Alec Lytton, a fellow dancer and teacher of dance at the University of Akron; by her daughters, Genevieve, 3, and Paige, 2; by her parents Lynne and Dave Lieberth; by her sister, Emma Lieberth and brother-in-law, Nathaniel Osborn; her mother-in-law, Joy Lord of Houston; and uncle, Joseph Lieberth of Barberton.

I know Kate is dearly missed by her family, her friends, and all her students. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF LOUDOUN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arc of Loudoun, on its 50th anniversary of making immeasurable contributions throughout Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Since its creation in 1967, this foundation has advanced Rachel Paxton's dream to use her historic Leesburg property to support the "needy children" of Loudoun County, delivering care and services for people from infancy to adulthood, with differing abilities. The Arc of Loudoun has reshaped the quality of life for citizens, enabling thousands of people to live with greater independence and dignity by implementing one vision, to help members to live "a life like yours."

The Arc of Loudoun serves 3,125 people, with over 4,000 instances of services through their five programs on Paxton Campus. They provide an integrated and innovative environment in their services, all devoted to their mission to maximizing the potential of children

while supporting families and individuals with disabilities so that they may thrive in Loudoun.

These programs include the Aurora School. Founded in 2003, the School is a private day school for students with special needs and behavior challenges. Founded in 2010, the Open Door Learning Center is an inclusive preschool for children with and without disabilities. The Center provides daily care with on-site behavioral and music therapy provisions for young children, many with developmental disabilities.

The ALLY “A Life Like Yours” Advocacy Center was founded in 2011 and serves as a community resource for information, advocacy and support for children with special needs, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who work with them. Founded in September 2017, the Ability Fitness Center is a therapeutic fitness and wellness center for individuals with neurological disorders including stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and cerebral palsy, and developmental disabilities. This past January, the Arc of Loudoun launched the Advantage Behavior Clinic. The clinic provides individualized behavior and verbal therapy, speech therapy, and social skills development for children with autism and other related disabilities.

I am thankful for the leadership of the Arc of Loudoun management team: Melissa Heifetz, Denise Daffron, YaTonya Abdullah, Eileen Shaffer, Megan Allman, Kendra McDonald, Amy Metaxa, Helen Parker, Matt Smith, Morgan Payne, and the entire staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arc of Loudoun on its 50th anniversary. May the Arc of Loudoun continue to assist in the cultivation of a better life for many years to come.

DANAIS REZA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Danais Reza for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Danais Reza is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danais Reza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Danais Reza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

DAYTON ACCORDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of the Dayton Accords is something the Balkans are still coming to terms with. The scourge of war and ethnic division have for too long cast a shadow of these historic and beautiful nations. For nearly 30 years, we have worked with our friends in the region to bring peace and reconciliation. We have learned many lessons and overcome many challenges. We have achieved peace but it remains an uneasy peace that must be closely tended to.

The United States took on the responsibility when it intervened in the Balkans during the 1990s to find a political solution that enables freedom and peace between neighbors. We are not done with this responsibility. The Dayton Accords was an important agreement, but it was a flawed agreement. It did not solve all the region's problems and even created a few new ones. Peacekeepers remain in the Balkans to this day holding together the fragile agreement we constructed. If violence breaks out and if the region descends into chaos, it is our credibility that is damaged. But worst, it will reopen old wounds that are nearly healed. It is vital to our interests that peace, freedom, and prosperity triumph in the Balkans. Through Dayton we played a role in setting the current course, so have a stake in the region's future.

Having spent a lot of time in the region, I have developed a deep affection and admiration for the peoples of the Balkans. I know them to be a proud, resilient, and strong-willed community—not unlike my fellow Texans. Specifically, I am proud to have forged a strong friendship with our Serbian partners as co-chair of the Serbia caucus. In them I see hope for the future. At the time Dayton was brokered, the United States and Serbia were foes, with daunting disagreements about the future of the region. But today we are friends working towards closer ties and a stronger Transatlantic community. I have seen that in Serbian President Vucic we have a partner for the future. He is committed to a Serbia living at peace with its neighbors. This includes moving his nation into the European Union and tackling the thorny issue of Kosovo. We must show him our support.

Of course, our warming ties with Serbia and the rest of the region have caught the notice of the Kremlin. Russia has always felt the Balkans was under its sphere of influence. Dating back to the time of Soviet imperialism, Moscow has tried to force its will on the region. Vladimir Putin is trying desperately to upset the Balkan's integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. In 2016, Putin even tried to support a coup in Montenegro to prevent its ascension into NATO. The Kremlin's meddling in the region continues to this day, where it is sponsoring an elaborate and extensive disinformation campaign across the Balkans. Putin is hoping that by flooding the media in the region with lies, he can create division, unrest, and convince the people of the Balkans to move away from the West. The citizens of the region are freedom loving people yearning to join and prosper within the Euro-Atlantic alli-

ance, rather than the tyranny and violence of Putin's realm. We need to take a more active role in thwarting Russia's deceptions.

Putin, however, is not the only threat to the region. The rise of ISIS and migrant crisis has strained the resources of our Balkan friends. The threat of radicalization and returning foreign fighters is a shared threat which we must work together to combat. To forge our partnership with the Balkan states and demonstrate our commitment to stability in the region, it is required that the United States be attentive to their security concerns as much as any of our allies in Europe. Let us not forget that instability in the Balkans a hundred years ago sparked a course of events that led to two world wars, millions dead, and divided Europe. That is why it is crucial we remain steadfast partners to the Balkans.

The United States has a lot to offer to help guide the region towards a bright and peaceful future. We have an obligation because of Dayton to remain engaged and see that the problems of the past are overcome.

And that's just the way it is.

SKILLS FOR TODAY WEEK

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my House 21st Century Skills Caucus co-chair, Congressman DAVE LOEBSACK, I rise today to acknowledge Skills for Today Week.

Every American student should graduate high school with the knowledge and skills required for workplace, academic, and life success. Thriving today—finding and holding a well-paying job, succeeding in higher education, and becoming part of a healthy community—requires a deep grasp of rich content knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to address challenges and meet needs. Extraordinary schools and community programs in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and many other states across the country recognize this vitally important vision and are working hard to equip their learners with the critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity skills (the “4Cs”) they will need after graduation.

As the bipartisan co-chairs of the House 21st Century Skills Caucus, we love to highlight the innovative schools and community organizations—including high quality early learning providers and engaging community programs—that are blazing new trails to prime students for success. That is why we are pleased to acknowledge Skills for Today Week, which is scheduled from April 23–27. Skills for Today Week was created by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning to showcase how leading schools and beyond school programs are transforming teaching and learning, using a focus on the 4Cs to prepare students for economic, academic, and life success.

Policymakers and practitioners alike can learn from the diverse group of education innovators featured during Skills for Today Week events. We believe federal education policies should enable and invest in similar initiatives. As a result, we continue to strongly support the Every Student Succeeds Act,

which defers to state and local decision-making and sensibly invests in educational innovations through bipartisan programs like the Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grant, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, and the Preschool Development Grants program. The stars of Skills for Today Week show that this flexible and practical approach can make a major difference for America's students as they work to become the next generation of business, community, and national leaders.

RECOGNIZING DR. EYSA MARQUEZ-BRITO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Eysa Marquez-Brito, a Board Certified pediatrician practicing in beautiful Coral Gables.

For over 30 years, Eysa has served the healthcare needs of countless children in my Congressional district.

After graduating from medical school and completing her training in the field of pediatrics, neonatology and adolescent medicine, Eysa became Chief Resident at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, where she has continued to teach until this day.

Eysa also works tirelessly outside of the exam room. She is active in the philanthropic community and volunteers with organizations such as United Way of Miami-Dade, Alfalit, Boy Scouts of America, and the Cancer Research Institute just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to represent individuals like Eysa, who has dedicated her life to serving children and by doing so has transformed the lives of so many in our South Florida community.

COURTNEY ROBB

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Courtney Robb for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Courtney Robb is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Courtney Robb is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Courtney Robb for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LAWRENCE MANCHIO

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Lawrence Manchio for his outstanding service and contributions to this country. Mr. Manchio is a veteran of the Second World War and a longtime Civil Servant, and today, April 24, 2018, he turns 100 years old.

Lawrence Manchio, the son of an Italian immigrant and the second oldest of eight children, grew up on Metcalfe Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was an 11-year old and selling Times Ledger newspapers on the street the day the stock market crashed in 1929. As the country wrestled with the Great Depression, Mr. Manchio's father was diagnosed with a terminal illness, and a young Larry Manchio dropped out of the eighth grade and took a job as a plumber's apprentice to help feed his family.

In 1934, Mr. Manchio signed on with FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) clearing land to build Skyline Drive in Virginia's Shenandoah Mountains. When the work with the CCC ended, the Corps of Engineers in Pennsylvania hired him to help clean up damage from the Susquehanna River flood of 1936. When that project completed, Mr. Manchio relocated to Alexandria, VA to begin construction of National Airport and the Pentagon.

Mr. Manchio lived in several boarding houses in the North End of Old Town Alexandria before settling down in a small home on Columbus Street. He walked four miles to and from the job site each day to save on bus fare. He met his wife, Diva DiFelice, while attending Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and they married on January 23, 1942.

A year later, Mr. Manchio joined the Army. After basic training, he joined his unit in Australia and fought with MacArthur's forces through New Guinea, Borneo, Morotai, and the Philippines. In 1945, Mr. Manchio landed in Japan with the 8th Army where his unit was charged with guarding the Japanese Imperial Palace during occupation.

He was discharged in 1946, and resumed working for the Corps of Engineers. As part of the Aqueduct Division, he was set to work building and developing the water supply system for Washington, DC., and Northern Virginia. By the time he retired in 1973, he was supervising the work of over 53 civil servants.

In retirement, Mr. Manchio continued to serve his community and neighbors. He took pride in maintaining a meticulously landscaped yard, which received numerous beautification awards from the City of Alexandria. In May 2013, his wife of 71 years passed away, but he continues to enjoy the company and support of his son and daughter who both live locally. Mr. Manchio attributes his longevity to a Mediterranean diet, remaining physically and mentally active, and drinking a glass of red wine daily. He enjoys reading, keeping up with current events, and rooting for the Washington Nationals.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Manchio's dedication and service to his country is deserving of recognition and distinction. He is the highest example

of a true American and a role model for us all. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Lawrence Manchio on reaching his centennial year.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to five extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Ayesha Muzaffar from the University of Houston;

Anthony Berry from the University of Alabama;

Jonathan King from Texas Tech University;

Troy Allen from the University of Houston;

and

Brett Hyland from The Madeira School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like Ayesha, Anthony, Jonathan, Troy, and Brett the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women

can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

ADRENA ROCHA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrena Rocha for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Adrena Rocha is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrena Rocha is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrena Rocha for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING LOLLIE'S NEW
MEXICAN FOOD

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lollie's New Mexican Food, one of Albuquerque's favorite restaurants, which just celebrated its five-year anniversary.

In April 2013, Lollie Padilla opened her restaurant in Albuquerque's South Valley hoping to share the recipes of her mother, for whom the restaurant is named. Since then, Ms. Padilla and her staff have been "Proudly Serving the Southwest" quadrant of Albuquerque breakfast and lunch seven days a week. House specialties include the sopaipillas and tostadas as well as New Mexico's famous red and green chile.

In addition to providing the South Valley with outstanding food, Lollie's has given back to the community through its philanthropic endeavors. Every winter, the restaurant holds a coat drive in order to help those who are struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Albuquerque community, I want to congratulate Lollie's New Mexican Food on its five-year anniversary. We are so lucky to have Ms. Padilla and her team in our community and look forward to enjoying their food, hospitality, and philanthropy for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA
MINOR JAMES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Barbara Minor James, a dedicated civic servant, mentor and humanitarian, who touched the lives of many.

A steadfast Dallasite, Mrs. James lived a life devoted to the service of others, especially the young women of our city through her tireless work with the YWCA, a non-profit with a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen communities. This is a cause that Mrs. James believed in deeply, and her efforts led to her becoming the first African-American woman to serve as the President of this valuable institution.

A graduate of the storied Booker T. Washington High School, and later Wiley College of Marshall, Texas, and San Francisco State University, Mrs. James was affectionately referred to as 'The General', because she strived her whole life to ensure that young women would not be limited to traditional roles, but instead be trained to be leaders in their communities and be granted professional equality. These are values that we continue to strive for, and that we can be sure touched the lives of countless young women who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

She is also a deeply valued member of her church community at New Hope Baptist, for whom she gifted 50 years as a Sunday School Instructor, as well as numerous other board positions and directorships, including as a Trustee of American Baptist Women for 15 years.

Her service was not confined to these institutions, as she also dedicated herself to the greater Dallas Community of Churches, Jack and Jill of America, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Clinic and National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. James said it best when she remarked that service "makes getting up every morning exciting because I can work for the betterment of Dallas, the city I love." Simply put Barbara Minor James was involved in every way possible to dedicated her life to her church, her community, and her values, and I believe we should honor her legacy for that commitment.

IN RECOGNITION OF HEART'S
DELIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heart's Delight Baptist Church, of Fauquier, Virginia, on their 150th anniversary. The church was envisioned in 1868 under the leadership of Jessie D. Howe and Noah Bumbry. During the early stages of planning the church, these trusted servants of God suggested an appropriate name for the new church, which was based upon the lesson

taught them in the following lines: "Though hell may rage, avenge and spite, still God will save his heart's delight." After two years on this journey, the land was purchased and the church was built.

Pastor Jacob Byrd, who was then a young licentiate minister of the gospel, preached until Pastor J.D. Howe had been licensed to preach and was called to succeed Mr. Byrd in January of 1873. Since its creation, Heart's Delight Baptist Church has been led by 11 pastors in its 150 years. Through that time, Heart's Delight has provided a quality Christian foundation for many in the surrounding community. I am happy to say that in the last two years, Heart's Delight has been extremely active in the community and has held many events, including a Christian Bowling League, Hope Emergency Center and the Catlett Community Fair.

Mr. Speaker, I pray for Christ's guidance as the congregation comes together in His name and fellowship. May God always bless Heart's Delight Baptist Church as they continue to spread Christ's word and remain a light within the community.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDATION
FOR ETHNIC UNDERSTANDING
AND THE REPUBLIC OF AZER-
BAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting an event on April 18th celebrating the relationship between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Israel. The Republic of Azerbaijan has been inclusive of its vibrant Jewish community and has the distinction of being a majority Muslim country that has a friendship with Israel. The United States of America and the Republic of Azerbaijan have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since 1992 following Azerbaijan's successful declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. The Republic of Azerbaijan has been supportive of a two-state solution for peace in the Middle East while maintaining and strengthening its partnership with the State of Israel. The Republic of Azerbaijan is celebrating the centennial of becoming the first ever democratic republic in the Muslim world. Thank you again to the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding for hosting a great event honoring the enduring relationship between Azerbaijan and Israel.

DONALD TALLMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Donald Tallman for receiving the West Chamber's Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who have had significant and long-lasting impacts on Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Donald has served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Railroad Museum for the past 13 years and has the distinction of being the first non-raifan to lead the Museum. Under Donald's leadership, the museum has made great progress including developing new audiences, expanding educational programs and increasing visibility outside the railfan community. Museum attendance has nearly doubled during his tenure, and the Museum's budget has also grown by almost 70 percent. Today, the Colorado Railroad Museum is recognized as one of the foremost, independently-supported railroad museums in the United States.

To achieve this success, Donald has worked closely with local and state tourism agencies to help them understand the important economic impact of tourist railroads and railway museums. Donald is a strong proponent of the power of collaboration and works closely with other cultural organizations in the region to develop opportunities to collaborate on programs. He is also active in the community, serving on several boards including the Budget and Audit Committee for the City of Lakewood, the Membership Committee for the National Western Stock Show Association, the Golden Visitor Center Board, and the Board of the HeritageRail Alliance.

Donald is also active in the arts community, both as a performer and as an administrator. A professional singer, Donald regularly performs the National Anthem at civic and professional sporting events throughout Colorado.

Congratulations to Donald Tallman for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his continued dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA GARCIA
DUENAS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my constituent, Patricia Garcia Duenas, who will be retiring on May 1st from Jackson Memorial Hospital after 31 years of dedicated service to our community.

Like my family and me, and so many others in my Congressional district, Patricia was forced to flee Castro's brutal tyranny. She arrived in Miami from Cuba in 1968.

Patricia attended South Miami Senior High School and had great pride for her school. She was actively involved in extra-curricular activities and was selected to the Homecoming Court and Captain of the Varsity Cheerleaders.

Patricia later attended the University of Florida and graduated in 1986, with a Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation. Her desire to help others in our community led her to a lifelong career at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Patricia first joined the Jackson family in 1987, as a Child Life Specialist at Holtz Children's Center. In 1988, she accepted a position as a Recreation Therapist in Mental Health and, for the past thirty years she has helped thousands of individuals with mental illness and addiction. Her dedication and commitment to her patients and to Jackson Behavioral Health Hospital have earned her numerous recognitions.

In October of 2015, she was named Manager of Activity Therapy Services and, under

her leadership, the Department has continued to go above and beyond to provide excellent care.

Throughout her three decades of service, it is without question that Patricia has been a champion of mental health care and that she has impacted the lives of countless individuals. I thank Patricia for her many years of service to our South Florida community.

CONGRATULATING RABBI AMY R.
PERLIN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Amy R. Perlin for her 32 years of exceptional service to the Temple B'nai Shalom and the surrounding community of Fairfax Station. After decades of service, Rabbi Perlin will be retiring this July.

Rabbi Perlin was determined to build a vibrant and meaningful Jewish life for families in Northern Virginia. In 1986, she founded the Temple B'nai Shalom congregation, becoming the first female rabbi in the United States to start a congregation on her own, bringing together the essence of Jewish spiritual life for about 100 families from several nearby communities in the fall of 1986. Under her leadership, the Temple has grown to serve over 500 families from throughout Northern Virginia, and earned a reputation as a values driven, welcoming, diverse, caring, and highly-participatory congregation.

Nationally, Temple B'nai Shalom is known for retaining and inspiring generations of Jewish youth to continue practicing their faith through Confirmation and Post-Confirmation, posting one of the best post-Bar Mitzvah retention rates in the country. Additionally, the Temple has sent a record number of rabbinic students to Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion, with seven members of the congregation matriculating to the Institute since 2002. Having Rabbi Perlin's students named to these prestigious institutions is truly a testament to her resolute commitment to providing Jewish youth with a first-rate education.

In recognition for her leadership and service, Rabbi Perlin received the Jewish Women International's 2012 Women to Watch award. In 2013, she was recognized as one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" by The Forward newspaper for her impact shaping 21st century Judaism.

In addition to her faithful service to the Temple B'nai Shalom congregation, Rabbi Perlin is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Together with her husband of 41 years, Gary, she has been dedicated to social justice and philanthropy in the Washington area and worldwide.

In honor of Rabbi Perlin's legacy, the congregation of the Temple B'nai Shalom is establishing the Rabbi Amy R. Perlin and Gary L. Perlin Endowment to commemorate the invaluable leadership and service she and her husband have provided to the Northern Virginia community. With the establishment of this endowment, Rabbi Perlin's contributions and leadership will continue to thrive and strengthen the Jewish faith now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Rabbi Perlin's loyal and dedicated service to Temple B'nai Shalom. On behalf of Virginia's 10th District, I wish Rabbi Perlin all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. OLSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to leave Texas in time to vote on Monday April 16th due to a personal obligation.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 140 and Yea on Roll Call No. 141.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, I was not present for Roll Call vote 147. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2905, the Justice for Victims of IRS Scams and Identity Theft Act of 2018.

A NATIONAL HERO FROM TEXAS
21

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week Southwest Flight 1380 was flying from New York's La Guardia Airport to Dallas Love Field when one of the plane's engines exploded.

The pilot, Tammie Jo Shults, a constituent who lives in Kendall County, heard the noise and knew what had happened. She remained calm as the plane shook and shuddered and reassured her 144 passengers and five crew members while she also coordinated with air traffic control.

Captain Shults kept a bad situation from becoming worse and safely executed an emergency landing in Philadelphia.

Shults is no stranger to high-pressure situations. She had years of experience as one of the Navy's first female aviators who later served as an F/A18 Hornet instructor in which she played the "aggressor" pilot in mock dogfights. That's where she met her husband Dean, who is now a commercial pilot too.

Tammie and Dean have two adult children, one of whom, Marshall, I appointed to the United States Air Force Academy. I'm happy to have the Shults family as constituents in Texas' 21st District.

WELCOME CLARK GRAY TOLLESON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Lauren Tolleson and Jesse Tolleson of Alexandria, Virginia, on the birth of their new baby boy, Clark Gray Tolleson. Clark Gray Tolleson was born on March 2, 2018, at Inova Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia at 8:31 p.m. Clark weighed five pounds and twelve ounces and measured 18 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

I would also like to congratulate Clark's grandparents, Jesse and Sybil Tolleson of Rienzi, Mississippi, and Gray and Jean Gildner of Fairfax Station, Virginia. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW DOMINION WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all members of the New Dominion Women's Club of McLean, Virginia, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. For half a century, its members and their friends have worked to make Northern Virginia a better place in which to live.

Founded in the spring of 1968 by eight dedicated, civic-minded women, this club has a proud history of community involvement, volunteer service and fellowship.

The Club tailors its structure to maximize the benefits of its efforts to the community and its members, and it annually votes on a slate of directors to lead the planning process for the membership. In support of its mission, club members meet monthly to plan several community fundraisers, service projects and program activities that take place throughout the year.

Program activities are comprised of cultural programs, lectures, holiday celebrations and membership events, which incorporate in-kind donation collections for local groups in need. Memorable events include, Suited for Change, SHARE of McLean, Second Story, Doorways of VA, Bethany House, The Reading Connection, Food for Others, and Education for Independence, Homestretch and more. These events have been abundantly successful in raising money for the Club's beneficiary organizations, especially in 2017 when the club raised over \$20,000 in donations. I would like to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to the many worthwhile projects and program activities over the past fifty years that have enhanced the broader community. As is obvious from this long and diverse list of activities, the women of the New Dominion Women's Club are extraordinarily dedicated, passionate and creative.

I thank the many women who have shared a legacy of community service for the many individuals of Virginia, while providing an opportunity for fellowship among women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Dominion Women's Club as they celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary.

RULES OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS REFORM

HON. STEVE WOMACK

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mrs. LOWEY, co-chairs of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, I include in the RECORD the rules of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform. These rules were adopted during the Joint Committee's organizational meeting on April 17, 2018.

RULE I—IN GENERAL

1. The provisions of subtitle B of title IV, division C of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) governing the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform (hereinafter "Joint Committee") are hereby incorporated by reference and nothing herein shall be construed as superseding any provision of that Act.

2. The rules of the House of Representatives—to the extent that they are applicable to committees and do not conflict with the rules of the Joint Committee or subtitle B of title IV, division C of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018—shall govern the proceedings of the Joint Committee.

3. If a measure or matter is publicly available in electronic form, it shall be considered to have been available to members of the Joint Committee for purposes of these rules.

4. In each case where authority is granted to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee, such authority may only be exercised jointly by the Co-Chairs.

RULE II—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

MEETINGS

1. (a) The Co-Chairs shall provide an agenda to the Joint Committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(b) The text of any report and proposed legislative language shall be publicly available in electronic form at least 24 hours prior to its consideration.

HEARINGS

3. The Co-Chairs shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted not less than seven days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

WITNESSES' STATEMENTS

4. (a) A witness appearing before the Joint Committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least two calendar days before the appearance of the witness, unless this requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure to comply with such requirement.

(b) Any witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include with their written statement of testimony a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received

during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. These statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of a witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears. Such disclosure shall include:

(i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and

(ii) the amount and country of origin for any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

VOTING AND QUORUMS

5. (a) Nine members of the Joint Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting and meeting.

(b) Five members of the Joint Committee shall constitute a quorum for holding hearings.

6. A record vote on any motion, amendment, measure, or matter may be ordered upon the request of any member of the Joint Committee.

7. The Co-Chairs may jointly agree to set a series of votes on any amendment or agreeing to a measure or matter, or postpone a requested record vote on such amendment, measure or matter, to occur at a time certain. Reasonable notice shall be given to members prior to resuming proceedings on any postponed question.

8. No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the Joint Committee.

RULE III—QUESTIONING WITNESSES

1. Questioning of witnesses will be conducted under the five-minute rule. Each member of the Joint Committee shall be allocated five minutes to question witnesses during the initial round and any subsequent round of questioning.

RULE IV—STAFFING AND RECORDS

STAFF

1. The staff of the Joint Committee shall be appointed as provided in sections 30442(b)(4)(I)(i) and 30442(b)(4)(I)(ii) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

RECORDS

2. The Joint Committee shall maintain a complete record of all committee action, including—

(a) in the case of a hearing or meeting transcript, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(b) the result of each record vote taken by the Joint Committee, including a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and voting against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of the members of the Joint Committee present but not voting.

RULE V—CONTENT OF REPORT

1. In the report required under section 30442(b)(2)(B)(i)(I) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the Joint Committee shall include—

(a) with respect to each record vote on a motion to report the Joint Committee's recommendations or accompanying legislative language, and on any amendment offered to the recommendations or language, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of members voting for and against; and

(b) a document, showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed, the entire text of each section of a statute that is proposed to be repealed; and a comparative print of each amendment to the entire text of a section of a statute that the bill or joint resolution proposes to make. If the Joint Committee reports a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof with a recommendation that the bill or joint resolution be amended, such comparative print shall also reflect the changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill or joint resolution as proposed to be amended.

RULE VI—PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY

1. (a) Any report or legislative language approved by the Joint Committee, the result of each record vote taken by the Joint Committee, and any Committee Print published by the Joint Committee shall be made available to the public in electronic form.

(b) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to the report or legislative language, the Co-Chairs shall make the text of each such amendment publicly available in electronic form.

(c) Not later than 48 hours after a record vote is completed, the information described in clause 2(b) of rule IV shall be made publicly available in electronic form.

2. To the maximum extent practicable, the Joint Committee shall—

(a) provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings; and

(b) maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

**HONORING MS. ZOE SLOAN
CALLAN**

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Zoe Sloan Callan for her victory at the New Mexico finals of the Poetry Out Loud recitation competition. Ms. Callan is New Mexico's representative at the national finals this week.

Ms. Callan is a freshman at the Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque. She earned first place at the 13th Annual New Mexico Finals of Poetry Out Loud last month, a competition that featured over 1,600 students and 35 teachers from across the state.

Ms. Callan's winning recitation consisted of "Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Rezervation" by Natalie Diaz, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, and "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye.

In recognition of her achievement, Ms. Callan received \$200, as well as a \$500 stipend to purchase poetry books for her school's library. She also received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. with her grandmother, Ms. Jackie Miles, to compete in the national finals.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Albuquerque community, I want to congratulate Ms. Zoe Sloan Callan on her impressive victory at the New Mexico Finals of Poetry Out Loud. We wish

her the best of luck in the national finals and all her future endeavors.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CMSGT JOSEPH R. MCARTHUR,
911TH AIRLIFT WING, U.S. AIR
FORCE**

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citizen Airman Chief Master Joseph R. McArthur upon his retirement after more than 37 years of honorable service in the United States Air Force and United States Air Force Reserve.

Chief McArthur was born in Duluth, Minnesota and graduated from Spring Lake Park Senior High School in 1980. He entered the U.S. Air Force in November of that year. His first assignment was to the 9th Bombardment Squadron at the former Carswell AFB, Texas. After promotion to the rank of Senior Airman below-the-zone on 1 June 1983, he departed for Verona, Italy where he was assigned to NATO's Joint Signal Support Group. He was later reassigned to the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing at Royal Air Force Lakenheath where he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for Heroism.

Chief McArthur moved to Ramstein Air Base, Germany in July 1986 after he was designated the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Personnel for the AF European Broadcasting Squadron. In 1988, Chief McArthur completed the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School as a Distinguished Graduate. Two years later, Chief McArthur was reassigned to the 40th Mission Support Group, Aviano Air Base, Italy as the NCOIC of Personnel Readiness where he supported Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM and PROVIDE COMFORT.

In 1992, he joined the 98th Air Refueling Group as the Chief of Personnel of Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana with the Air Force Reserve. In August 1996, then-TSgt McArthur was reassigned to the 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station where he served in various positions. The following year, Chief McArthur was promoted to Master Sergeant and to Senior Master Sergeant in 1999.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Chief McArthur supported Operation NOBLE EAGLE. He led a contingent of security forces personnel to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility with the 321st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Masirah Air Base, Oman.

In 2005, he became the Air Transportation Manager within the Aerial Port career field. From 2006–2007, he was deployed to the 489th Aerial Port Squadron, Andrews AFB, Maryland. During that deployment, Chief McArthur completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from American Military University.

He returned to the 911th Airlift Wing in 2007, being promoted to Chief Master Sergeant. Chief McArthur forged partnerships with local educational institutions to allow college-level courses to be taught at the 911th Airlift Wing. His vision came to fruition in January

2014 when the 911th Airlift Wing partnered with Robert Morris University to begin teaching General Education courses. Since this partnership started, the 911th Airlift Wing has presented over 150 Community College of the Air Force Associate degrees.

In 2008, he deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Airlift Wing at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Following his deployment, Chief McArthur was selected to become the "defacto" Group Superintendent for the 911th Mission Support Group. Three years later, he deployed as the Superintendent of the Air Mobility Division at the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

In 2014, he became the Air Transportation Functional Manager (Forward), Headquarters, Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. He deployed in 2017 and 2018 with the 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron as the Superintendent for Manpower and Personnel Flight.

In 2016, he was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Robert Morris University.

Chief McArthur is a highly decorated individual who has been awarded 8 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Air Force Commendation Medals, and 2 Air Force Achievement Medals.

I commend Chief Master Sergeant Joseph R. McArthur for his commitment and sacrifices he has made for our country. On this occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, I thank him for his honorable service. The United States of America has benefited greatly from Chief McArthur's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight. We wish him and his wife, Barbara, the very best.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Congressional Prayer Breakfast.

Prior to its origination, many residents of Illinois had attended what was then called the St. Louis Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. I was invited myself to attend by Gary Tedrick, a local businessman who was involved with the sponsoring organization—CBMC.

We then discussed hosting an Illinois version to be called the Congressional Prayer Breakfast. Upon conferring with Congressman Jerry Costello (D, Belleville), we agreed this would be a good thing to do. It would remind us of our common faith and that there is more that unites us than divides us. We ended up co-hosting the event for 14 years.

Gary led the formation of the breakfast along with the help of David Stevenson, Mark Repking, Ted Prehn, and Stan Bower from the St. Louis chapter of CBMC, and Gary continues to lead it with the help of dozens of volunteers. People such as Bob Plummer and Scott Adams are original sponsors from the very beginning.

We have heard from a wide range of speakers over the years, who tell their stories of the trials of life and faith, but all of them have had the same common belief in Jesus Christ.

I want to thank former Congressmen Jerry Costello and Bill Enyart for co-hosting, as well as my current co-hosts, Congressmen RODNEY DAVIS and MIKE BOST. I also want to thank Steve Jankowski, who has served as our emcee for all 20 years.

I want to thank the current steering committee members: Scott Adams, Mike Baese, George Weber, Dick Bold, Julie Lading, Bob Plummer, Larry Absheer, Gary Tedrick, Tony Kalinowski, David Stevenson, Tracy Bodenbach, Eric McRoy, and David Wiegand. In addition, I want to thank Bott Radio for broadcasting the breakfast for several years now.

I want to thank R.P. Lumber in Edwardsville, Answer Midwest in Alton, and Larry's Hairy

Business in Fairview Heights for hosting weekly discussion groups.

My involvement in reaching the 20 year milestone for the Congressional Prayer Breakfast has been limited, and it would not have happened without the dedication of Gary and his team and the hundreds of attendees each year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call votes on Tuesday, April

24, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage for the following bills: S. 447, the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act, H.R. 4744, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, and H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act.

Together, these bills promote America's obligation to protect religious freedom and human rights around the world.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2359–S2397

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2732–2743, S.J. Res. 60, and S. Res. 481–482. **Page S2391**

Measures Passed:

North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2061, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S2396

McConnell (for Rubio) Amendment No. 2240, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2396**

Congratulating the Villanova University Wildcats: Senate agreed to S. Res. 482, congratulating the Villanova University Wildcats for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. **Page S2396**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate, to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, into the House Chamber for the Joint Meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. **Page S2396**

Pompeo Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State. **Pages S2372–81**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, April 26, 2018. **Page S2372**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2372**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2372**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. **Page S2372**

Grenell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Department of State. **Pages S2372–81**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State. **Page S2372**

Page S2372

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2372**

Page S2372

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2372**

Page S2372

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Page S2397

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 82), Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S2371–72**

Pages S2371–72

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Dan Michael Berkovitz, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2023.

James E. Hubbard, of Colorado, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2006.

Richard Clarida, of Connecticut, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Richard Clarida, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve

System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2008.

Mark Van Dyke Holmes, of New York, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

29 Army nominations in the rank of general.

4 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy. **Pages S2396–97**

Executive Communications: Pages S2386–90

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S2390–91

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2391–92

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2392–93

Additional Statements: Pages S2383–86

Amendments Submitted: Pages S2394–96

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2396

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—82) **Pages S2371–72**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:14 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2396.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

RURAL AMERICA

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of rural America, after receiving testimony from Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade: Senators Boozman (Chair), Hoeven, Grassley, Thune, Daines, Perdue, Hyde-Smith, Heitkamp, Brown, Bennet, Gillibrand, Donnelly, and Smith.

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy: Senators Ernst (Chair), Boozman, Hoeven, Thune, Daines, Fischer, Hyde-Smith, Smith, Brown, Klobuchar, Bennet, Donnelly, and Heitkamp.

Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources: Senators Daines (Chair), McConnell, Boozman, Grassley, Perdue, Hyde-Smith, Bennet, Leahy, Klobuchar, Donnelly, and Casey.

Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and Specialty Crops: Senators Perdue (Chair), McConnell, Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Fischer, Casey, Leahy, Brown, Gillibrand, and Smith.

Subcommittee on Livestock, Marketing, and Agriculture Security: Senators Fischer (Chair), McConnell, Ernst, Grassley, Thune, Daines, Gillibrand, Leahy, Klobuchar, Heitkamp, and Casey.

Senators Roberts and Stabenow are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Robert B. Neller, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: FDA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Food and Drug Administration, after receiving testimony from Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: USAID

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Mark Green, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 256 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Department of

the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, and General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, both of the Department of Defense.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine maritime transportation, focusing on opportunities and challenges, after receiving testimony from Michael A. Khouri, Acting Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission; Mark H. Buzby, USN (Ret.), Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation; Rear Admiral James Helis, USMS, Superintendent, Merchant Marine Academy; and Craig H. Middlebrook, Deputy Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation.

FOREST SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Victoria Christiansen, Interim Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

NEW TAX LAW

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine early impressions of the new tax law, after receiving testimony from David K. Cranston, Jr., Cranston Material Handling Equipment Corp., McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, Washington, D.C.; and David Kamin, New York University School of Law, and Rebecca M. Kysar, Brooklyn Law School, both of New York, New York.

CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine mitigating America's cybersecurity risk, including the need for the Department of Homeland Security to improve and promote the security of Federal and private-sector networks, after receiving testimony from Jeanette Manfra, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Gregory C. Wilshusen, Director,

Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Eric Rosenbach, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2680, to address the opioid crisis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2315, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2597, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 382, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters; and

The nomination of Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the plight of international parental child abduction and its effect on American families, after receiving testimony from Carl C. Risch, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs; Donald E. Conroy, Director, Passenger Division, National Targeting Center, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; Noelle Hunter, iStand Parent Network Inc., Morehead, Kentucky; John F. Clark, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia; and Christopher S. Brann, Houston, Texas.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 5589–5608, and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 838 and 840–843, were introduced.

Pages H3505–06

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H3506–07

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5005, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System (H. Rept. 115–644);

H.R. 5236, to expand opportunities available to employee-owned business concerns through Small Business Administration loan programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–645);

H.R. 4267, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to change certain requirements relating to the capital structure of business development companies, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–646);

H.R. 4464, to repeal the rule issued by the National Credit Union Administration titled “Risk-Based Capital” (H. Rept. 115–647);

H.R. 4560, to suspend contributions by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to the Housing Trust Fund during any period that the full required dividend payments under the Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements for such enterprises are not made, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–648);

H.R. 2809, to amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–649); and

H. Res. 839, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3144) to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from April 30, 2018, through May 4, 2018 (H. Rept. 115–650).

Pages H3504–05

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Poliquin to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3455**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3459**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H3459**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 3:37 p.m. **Page H3460**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act: S. 447, to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues; **Pages H3460–64**

No Assistance for Assad Act: H.R. 4681, amended, to limit assistance for areas of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria or associated forces; **Pages H3470–74**

Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States: H. Con. Res. 111, amended, recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 148; **Pages H3474–76, H3491–92**

Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018: H.R. 5086, amended, to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 379 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 149; and **Pages H3489–91, H3492–93**

American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act: H.R. 2809, amended, to amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities. **Pages H3476–89**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Mitchell wherein he resigned from the Committee on Education and the Workforce. **Page H3491**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:59 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3491**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 25th. **Page H3493**

Honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 838, honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush. **Page H3493**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:49 p.m. and reconvened at 9:50 p.m. **Page H3503**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act: H.R. 4744, amended, to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran.

Pages H3464–70

Senate Referral: S. 2325 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3455.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3491–92 and H3492–93. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018; TO PROVIDE FOR OPERATIONS OF THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM PURSUANT TO A CERTAIN OPERATION PLAN FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4, the “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018”; and H.R. 3144, to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–3, a structured rule that provides for the consideration of H.R. 4. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report and

amendments en bloc described in subsection (e) of the rule. Provides that the amendments printed in part A of the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as 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. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the report or against amendments en bloc as described in subsection (e) of the rule. The rule provides that the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part A of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 3144 under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 3, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from April 30, 2018, through May 4, 2018: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. Finally, in section 4, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3. Testimony was heard from Chairman Bishop of Utah, Chairman Shuster, and Representatives Graves of Louisiana, Massie, DeSaulnier, Titus, Hastings, Polis, Torres, Russell, Panetta, Culberson, Schiff, Estes of Kansas, Castor of Florida, Rohrabacher, Suozzi, Grothman, Welch, Hill, Jackson Lee, King of Iowa, Keating, Banks of Indiana, and Moore.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D397)

H.R. 3445, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Signed on April 23, 2018. (Public Law 115–167)

H.R. 3979, to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Signed on April 23, 2018. (Public Law 115–168)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2 p.m., SD–430.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Government Accountability Office and Congressional Budget Office, 3:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 2717, to reauthorize provisions relating to the Maritime Administration, S. 2369, to authorize aboriginal subsistence whaling pursuant to the regulations of the International Whaling Commission, S. 2511, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out a program on coordinating the assessment and acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems, to make available to the public data collected by the Administration using such systems, S. 2343, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States, and the nominations of Vice Admiral Karl L. Schultz, to be Admiral and to be Commandant, and Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Commandant, both of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transpor-

tation, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, and Laura Gore Ross, of New York, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Alan E. Cobb, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 9:45 a.m., SD–106.

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher Krebs, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, Department of Homeland Security, 3 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine H.R. 597, to take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and H.R. 1491, to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew S. Oldham, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Alan D. Albright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Thomas S. Kleeh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Peter J. Phipps, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: business meeting to markup S. Res. 355, improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate, 3:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine preparing small businesses for cybersecurity success, 3:30 p.m., SR–428A.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Government Accountability Office, 1 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the Department of Defense, 1 p.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing entitled “Member Day”, 1:30 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing entitled “FY 2019 Pipeline to the Workforce”, 2 p.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Library of Congress, 2 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Office of Housing and the Federal Housing Administration, 2 p.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the U.S. House of Representatives, 3 p.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing entitled “Member Day”, 3 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 4275, the “Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act”; H.R. 5041, the “Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act”; H.R. 5202, the “Ensuring Patient Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatments Act of 2018”; H.R. 5483, the “Special Registration for Telemedicine Clarification Act of 2018”; legislation on the Improving Access to Remote Behavioral Health Treatment Act of 2018; H.R. 449, the “Synthetic Drug Awareness Act of 2017”; H.R. 3545, the “Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act”; H.R. 3692, the “Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017”; H.R. 4284, the “Indexing Narcotics, Fentanyl, and Opioids Act of 2017”; H.R. 4684, the “Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2017”; H.R. 5002, the “ACE Research Act”; H.R. 5009, the “Jessie’s Law”; H.R. 5102, the “Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018”; H.R. 5176, the “Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms Act of 2018”; H.R. 5197, the “Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) in the Emergency Department Act”; H.R. 5261, the “TEACH to Combat Addiction Act of 2018”; H.R. 5272, the “Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act of 2018”; H.R. 5327, the “Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act 2018”; H.R. 5329, the “Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018”; H.R. 5353, the “Eliminating Opioid-Related Infectious Diseases Act of 2018”; legislation to enhance and improve state-run prescription drug monitoring programs; legislation to improve fentanyl testing and surveillance; legislation to support the peer support specialist workforce; H.R. 3331, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology; legislation on the CMS Action Plan; legislation on the Welcome to Medicare; legislation on the Adding Resources on Non-Opioid Alternatives to the Medicare Handbook; legislation on the Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative; legislation on the Alternative Payment Model for Treating Substance Use Disorder; legislation on the Use of Telehealth to Treat Opioid Use Disorder; legislation on the Incentivizing Non-Opioid Drugs; H.R. 3528, the “Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act”; H.R. 4841, the “Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act of 2018”; legislation on the Mandatory Lock-In; legislation on the Beneficiary Education; legislation on the Evaluating Abuse Deterrent Formulations; legislation on the Prescriber Notification; legislation on the Prescriber Education; legislation on the Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Expansion; legislation on the CMS/Plan Sharing; H.R. 1925, the “At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 3192, the “CHIP Mental Health Parity Act”; H.R. 4005, the “Medicaid Reentry

Act”; H.R. 4998, the “Health Insurance for Former Foster Youth Act”; H.R. 5477, the “Rural Development of Opioid Capacity Services Act”; H.R. 5562, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy implementing certain recommendations relating to the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, and for other purposes; legislation on the Limited repeal of the IMD Exclusion for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder; legislation on the Medicaid Pharmaceutical Home Act; legislation on the Medicaid DRUG Improvement Act; legislation on the Medicaid PARTNERSHIP Act; legislation on the Incentives to Create Medicaid Health Homes to Treat Substance Use Disorder; legislation on the Medicaid IMD ADDITIONAL INFO Act; legislation on the Medicaid Graduate Medical Education Transparency Act; legislation on the HUMAN CAPITAL in Medicaid Act; legislation on the Require Medicaid Programs to Report on All Core Behavioral Health Measures; legislation to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicaid coverage protections for pregnant and postpartum women while receiving inpatient treatment for a substance use disorder; H.R. 5228, the “Stop Counterfeit Drugs by Regulating and Enhancing Enforcement Now Act”; H.R. 5554, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs; legislation on the FDA and International Mail; legislation on the 21st Century Tools for Pain and Addiction Treatments; legislation on the FDA Opioid Sparing; legislation on the FDA Packaging and Disposal; legislation on the FDA Long-term Efficacy; and legislation on the FDA Misuse/Abuse, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “HUD’s Role in Rental Assistance: An Oversight and Review of Legislative Proposals on Rent Reform”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Border Security, Commerce and Travel: Commissioner McAleenan’s Vision for the Future of CBP”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, markup on Committee Resolution 115-10; Committee Resolution 115-11; Committee Resolution 115-13; Committee Resolution 115-14; Committee Resolution 115-15; Committee Resolution 115-16; Committee Resolution 115-17; and Committee Resolution 115-18, 12 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments, and markup on H.R. 3356, the “Prison Reform and Redemption Act”; H.R. 68, the “Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2017”; and H.R. 1689, the “Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2017”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Weaponization of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Implications of Environmental Lawfare”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “American Infrastructure and the Small Business Perspective”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Review of VA’s Life Insurance Programs”, 2:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways And Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled “Jobs and Oppor-

tunity: Employer Perspectives on the Jobs Gap”, 11:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “The Opioid Crisis: Stopping the Flow of Synthetic Opioids in the International Mail System”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine how the innovation economy leads to growth, 2 p.m., SH-216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Wednesday, April 25

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Wednesday, April 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

Senators will meet in the Senate Chamber to depart as a body at 10:10 a.m., to the Hall of the House for the 10:30 a.m. Joint Meeting with the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Joint Meeting with the Senate to Receive His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. Consideration of H.R. 3144—To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time (Subject to a Rule). Begin consideration of H.R. 4—FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the Rules: H.R. 5447—Music Modernization Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bergman, Jack, Mich., E518
 Beutler, Jaime Herrera, Wash., E520
 Beyer, Donald S., Jr., Va., E525
 Black, Diane, Tenn., E517, E530
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E517
 Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E526
 Comstock, Barbara, Va., E520, E523, E527, E528
 Costello, Ryan A., Pa., E524
 Dent, Charles W., Pa., E515
 Donovan, Daniel M., Jr., N.Y., E515
 Frankel, Lois, Fla., E516

Hurd, Will, Tex., E522
 Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E525
 Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E526
 Jordan, Jim, Ohio, E516, E517
 Lance, Leonard, N.J., E516
 Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E519
 Lujan Grisham, Michelle, N.M., E516, E521, E526, E529
 Matsui, Doris O., Calif., E521
 Olson, Pete, Tex., E527
 Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E518, E520, E521, E521, E522,
 E523, E524, E525, E526, E526
 Poe, Ted, Tex., E522, E524
 Richmond, Cedric L., La., E520

Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana, Fla., E516, E525, E527
 Rothfus, Keith J., Pa., E529
 Roybal-Allard, Lucille, Calif., E527
 Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E519, E523
 Schiff, Adam B., Calif., E515
 Sessions, Pete, Tex., E518
 Shimkus, John, Ill., E521, E529
 Smith, Lamar, Tex., E527
 Stefanik, Elise M., N.Y., E523
 Wenstrup, Brad R., Ohio, E517, E518
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E528
 Wittman, Robert J., Va., E523, E526
 Womack, Steve, Ark., E528



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