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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 6, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES COMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, 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.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been just about 100 hours since the House Republican leadership released their tax plan finally, not only to the American people, but also to their own rank and file Members.

I represent a great district, it is eastern Connecticut, it is about half the State geographically, and it is home to the University of Connecticut, Electric

Boat shipyard, Groton Navy base, Coast Guard Academy. I am very proud of the fact that these are really sharp folks, and in that less than 100-hour period, I have had about 700 emails and calls into my office from people who have looked at this plan, have run the numbers, have looked at what the existing Tax Code provides, and looked at what the net impact will be if this plan were ever to become law.

Louis from Norwich, Connecticut, who is a tax preparer, describes a neighbor of his who is 68 years old, she lives by herself, she earns \$33,000 in pension and Social Security income, only of which \$21,000 is taxable, and she has a small mortgage.

She looked at the Republican tax plan, which includes a standard deduction of \$12,500, and that is it. Her new tax will be \$1,014 if that plan were to go into effect.

Under existing law, the itemized deductions that she can claim today are roughly about \$12,500, the same amount as the standard deduction, but she is also able to claim a personal exemption, which every American is entitled to under the existing Tax Code. With that existing plan, her net taxes are \$445. So this tax plan will more than double her taxes.

Now, \$33,000 a year for a 68-year-old, I would say that is barely middle class, but certainly it is middle class under a lot of definitions as a homeowner, yet this tax plan is increasing her taxes by over 100 percent.

Mark from Clinton contacted me about the fact that this tax plan is going to eliminate the deduction for qualified medical expenses above 10 percent of your adjusted gross income. What does that mean? If you have got medical expenses for eyeglasses, hearing aids, or you have someone in a nursing home that you are paying out-of-pocket expenses for, or you have a home healthcare aide coming into your home that is not covered under your

insurance, you can deduct that off of your taxes to the extent that it exceeds 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Mark from Clinton is one of those people. Clinton, Connecticut, is a very middle class community. His taxes are going up.

That qualified medical deduction, again, is something that was repeated over and over from individuals who contacted my office, who can't believe that, again, they are doing the right thing, they are paying their bills for their healthcare—for themselves or for their kids or for their aunt or their parent—and they are losing that deduction. I am sorry. The standard deduction that is being offered as a compensation doesn't come close to helping an individual in that situation.

In addition, the State tax deduction, which the present Tax Code allows, is gone under this proposal. In the State of Connecticut, they have calculated that families that earn between \$50,000 and \$200,000 a year will see their taxes increase by 14 percent under this proposal.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a plan which was sold to the country as a tax cut for the middle class. Again, there are lots of other economic incentives that they put in there supposedly for corporations to cut their corporate tax rate and cut the rates for people in the top 1 percent. Again, it is totally imbalanced, but I am going to set that aside for the moment, because what was also guaranteed and promised was that middle class Americans would see their taxes going down, people like Louis from Norwich; Mark from Clinton; and Jason from Niantic, who is going to lose his college student loan interest rate deduction.

They eliminate the college student loan interest rate reduction. Again, we are living in a time right now where student loan debt is \$1.3 trillion. One of

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

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



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the few ways that you can manage that debt is being able to deduct it off of your taxes. That is being eliminated under the House Republican plan.

Now, if I sound a little worked up, it is because, literally, within minutes, the House Ways and Means Committee is going to start marking up this bill. Not one hearing is being held for outside voices to sort of at least crunch through the numbers of this proposal. The plan is for Speaker RYAN to force a vote next week. We are talking less than 10 days for rewriting the U.S. Tax Code, which has not been rewritten since 1986.

When it was done under President Reagan, it took a year for the process to unfold, and that was the right way to do it, to allow the subcommittees to take a look at their provisions of the Tax Code on the Ways and Means Committee, to hold hearings, to actually have an intelligent, thoughtful exchange of ideas before you mark it up, rather than jamming it to the floor, when you are taking away people's qualified medical expenses. Again, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The deduction that people get for dependent care assistance programs—if you have a kid who is developmentally disabled and needs a personal care attendant in your home right now, you can deduct that—that is being taken away.

This is a bad plan. We need to slow down; we need to give the American people a chance to understand this better. Again, I call on the Ways and Means Committee to, again, slow down and cancel the markups that are scheduled this week.

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 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the work of these hours, of these days. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily, with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

As legislation on taxes continues to be debated this week and next, may all Members be mindful that the institutions and structures of our great Nation guarantee the opportunities that have allowed some to achieve great success, while others continue to strug-

gle. May their efforts these days guarantee that there are not winners and losers under new tax laws, but benefits balanced and shared by all Americans.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. 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 pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Gabrielle Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

ISRAELI-AMERICAN COUNCIL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are grieving at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

This morning, I was grateful to join the Israeli-American Council at their fourth National Council Conference to celebrate our ally, Israel, and the special relationship we have formed over many years with the people of Israel. It was meaningful to be greeted by National Chairman Adam Milstein, and to discuss issues with Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson.

The Israeli-American Council is the fastest growing Jewish-American organization in the United States, and

works every day to foster a strong and positive relationship between the United States and the Israeli people.

I am grateful for their many accomplishments, and I wish them continued success in strengthening the American-Israeli relationship in the years to come through mutual economic success, creating jobs while promoting peace through strength with military cooperation.

South Carolina has always appreciated its Jewish heritage as home of the largest Jewish population of any State at the time of the American Revolution.

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

MASS DEPORTATION WOULD DISRUPT OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, mass deportation of Temporary Protected Status recipients today would disrupt our country and theirs.

More than 32,000 Salvadorans live in the District of Columbia metro area; and Salvadorans, at 200,000, are the largest group of TPS holders in the country today.

TPS designation requires the Attorney General to find "extraordinary and temporary conditions preventing returning to the state in safety."

The most recent influx of Salvadorans, one-third of them unaccompanied minors, shows that these conditions have been met for TPS holders and others. With the breakdown of civil society in Central America today, forced return of anyone now would be inhumane.

RECOGNIZING DEANE BOZEMAN SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Deane Bozeman School, a title I school, located in Bay County, Florida. Deane Bozeman School prides itself on developing boys and girls of character and as well-educated American citizens. The school's administration, faculty, staff, and parents join in investing and educating over 1,300 students, prekindergarten through 12th grade. The result is that Deane Bozeman School continues a tradition of academic excellence.

This year, Deane Bozeman School reaches yet another milestone in excellence by adding a fully chartered Army Junior ROTC program to its curriculum. As cadets, the ROTC program will develop middle and high school students into leaders whose characters are based on the fundamental values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity, and personal courage.

Under the leadership of Chief Warrent Officer Retired Jeff Adkins, these students will certainly thrive.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Deane Bozeman School for taking such a bold step and enriching the lives of the students in this inaugural year of its Army ROTC program.

A MASSIVE WINDFALL FOR INVESTORS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, slashing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent means one thing: a massive windfall for investors. While the champagne flows at the Trump Hotel after-party, middle class Americans would get nothing from this plan other than their deductions taken away for medical expenses, housing, and college loan interest payments. People won't even be able to deduct for most State and local income taxes paid, while large corporations would continue to do so.

Here is the real shocker: fully 35 percent of the windfall, between \$500 billion and \$700 billion this decade, will go to foreign investors who own 35 percent of American stock. That money will be lost to us forever. It won't be there for Medicare or Medicaid or anything else.

Blowing up our deficit by \$1.5 trillion while transferring that much wealth to big corporations is a terrible idea. It is atrocious when you realize that we won't just be spoiling superrich Americans with billions of dollars, we will be spoiling superrich foreigners, too.

Let's stop this speeding train and come up with a bipartisan tax plan that works for all Americans.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER TRAGEDY HERE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, another day, another tragedy here in America. These are difficult times in this country, and it seems that we have spent the last several months careening from one tragedy to the next: from the congressional baseball shooting to Charlottesville, from Charlottesville to Las Vegas, from Las Vegas to the terrorist attack in New York, from the terrorist attack in New York to a mass shooting at a Baptist Church in south Texas.

Something is wrong here in America, yet all we seem to do is to come to Congress, have a respectful moment of silence, and then move on as if everything is okay. It is not okay.

It is time for this "do-nothing Congress" to do something, do anything to help stop the carnage that is taking place in our great country.

PENALTIES IMPOSED ON MORTGAGE LENDERS

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say, ladies and gentlemen who are here, thank you for being here. I am from Dallas, Texas, and I stand in sorrow for my fellow Texans and the country, for those from Sutherland Springs, Texas, outside of San Antonio, who suffered the mass shooting of this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to highlight an issue that is impacting first-time home buyers in America. Over the past 8 years, the Department of Justice has penalized many mortgage lenders who participated in the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance program, a program that provides access to mortgages for some of America's first-time home buyers.

Unfortunately, the Department of Justice still continues, even today, to use the False Claims Act to impose penalties on mortgage lenders, many of whom were guilty of only material deficiencies in the loan applications, minor issues that, years later, people came back and tried to find a mistake so that they could pin the tail, pin a fine on some mortgage lender.

My colleagues and I have objected to these actions by the Department of Justice because many of the shortcomings in these loan applications were never intended as efforts to defraud anyone, but merely technical oversights, perhaps facts that might have not been completely known at the time of the loan application.

Many long-time mortgage lenders have exited this program because they cannot risk opening themselves to the penalties that have been imposed, I think, unwisely, by the Department of Justice for mere technical shortcomings of these loans.

So I have been a part of Members who are asking the Department of Justice to impose a moratorium to review what they are doing on the use of the False Claims Act to pursue such violations until the FHA can complete its own taxonomy, which is a set of standards that would impose penalties commensurate with the severity of the offense.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, would ask the American people for their express blessings upon those who gave their life this weekend in Texas.

EDUCATION IS THE NUMBER ONE EQUALIZER

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I think education is the number one equalizer. It is the door to opportunity, yet the GOP tax plan will make it harder to afford to be able to go to college.

When I was a kid, my parents—both immigrants from Mexico, where mom

only had a third grade education—told me that I had to become a doctor or a lawyer. That was the only way to get out of the poverty that we lived in.

As a result, I went to college. I was saddled in student loan debt when I came out. As a matter of fact, I still have over \$50,000 of student loan debt. It shouldn't be this way.

Congress should be working to make it easier to go to college so that there is debt-free college, or at least make it more affordable. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Instead, Congress is considering a terrible GOP tax plan that proposes to eliminate the student loan interest deduction and lifetime learning credits. Under current rules, borrowers paying off education loans can deduct up to \$2,500 of interest paid on student loans.

Deductions lower your taxable income. About 12.4 million people claimed it for the year 2015. You can claim the student loan break for several years after college while paying off the loans.

The GOP tax plan would destroy this key deduction for young graduates and workers getting the job training they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Millennials and young workers, if you disagree, rise and have your voice heard today. Just say no to the GOP tax plan that only makes it harder to afford college.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, HONORABLE HANK JOHNSON, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kathy Register, District Director, the Honorable HANK JOHNSON, Jr., Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2017.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

KATHY REGISTER,
District Director.

□ 1415

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, HONORABLE HANK JOHNSON, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Tishyra Johnson Armstrong, Constituent Services Representative, the Honorable HANK JOHNSON, Jr., Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2017.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

TISHYRA JOHNSON ARMSTRONG,
Constituent Services Representative.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURUNDI—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-76)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to the situation in Burundi, is to continue in effect beyond November 22, 2017.

The situation in Burundi, which has been marked by killing and other violence against civilians, unrest, the incitement of violence, and significant political repression, and which threatens the peace, security, and stability of Burundi and the region, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 with respect to the situation in Burundi.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-77)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together

with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-78)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNN) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS OF RESIDENCES OF VETERANS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3562) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3562

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

SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITIES FOR PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS OF RESIDENCES OF VETERANS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2102A the following new section:

“§2102B. Adaptations to residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary may assist a veteran who is entitled to services and assistance under chapter 31 of this title and is pursuing a rehabilitation program under such chapter in acquiring such adaptations to such veteran's residence as are determined necessary by the Secretary to accomplish the purposes of such rehabilitation program.

“(b) AMOUNT.—(1) The aggregate amount of assistance available to a veteran under subsection (a) may not exceed \$77,307. The Secretary may waive this limitation for a veteran if the Secretary determines a waiver is necessary for the rehabilitation program of the veteran.

“(2) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning in 2017), the Secretary shall increase the amount described in paragraph (1) by the percentage calculated under section 2102(e)(2) of this title.

“(3) Beginning on October 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of

Representatives a biennial report on the use of the waiver authority under paragraph (1).

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

“(d) REHABILITATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘rehabilitation program’ has the meaning given such term in section 3101 of this title.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may provide assistance under section 2102B of such title, as added by subsection (a), in advance of regulations by issuing notice specifying the criteria for the application, approval, and oversight processes relating to the provision of assistance under such section.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.—Section 3104 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) The Secretary may not assist a veteran in acquiring adaptations to the residence of the veteran under this chapter. Any such assistance may be furnished only under section 2102B of this title.”.

(2) MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RESIDING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 2101A of such title is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), this section shall not apply to the provision of assistance under section 2102B of this title.”.

(3) BENEFITS ADDITIONAL TO BENEFITS UNDER OTHER LAWS.—Section 2104 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “; however” and all that follows through “once”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking the second sentence; and

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

“(c) The Secretary may not provide assistance to a veteran under this chapter if the Secretary determines such assistance would result in a duplication of benefits under this title to the veteran.”.

(4) EXCEPTION TO MANDATORY LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 2106(a) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The Secretary shall insure any individual under 70 years of age who has received assistance under this chapter against the death of the individual except for an individual who—

“(1) elects in writing to not receive insurance under this section;

“(2) fails to respond in a timely manner to a request from the Secretary for information on which the premium for such insurance can be based; or

“(3) receives such assistance under section 2102B of this title.”.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 21 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2102A the following new item:

“2102B. Adaptations to residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3562.

This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my good friend, and would streamline the process for needed home adaptations for our most severely wounded veterans and servicemembers. The bill would do this by having the most qualified VA employees, those who already work on VA's Specially Adaptive Housing program and who are experts in home adaptation, oversee the changes to a veteran's home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, to discuss this bill.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3562 and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan, commonsense legislation to improve our services for those who have “borne the battle”: America's disabled veterans.

Currently, if a disabled veteran in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program needs adaptations made to their home due to the limitations of their disability, then it is their vocational rehabilitation counselor, someone who has no experience or training in home construction, who makes such arrangements for these adaptations.

In addition to the lack of core competency in home adaptations, these counselors have experienced a significant and steady rise in their job counseling caseloads, so their focusing on this home construction takes away from their primary function as a vocational counselor. This has resulted in inefficiencies for disabled veterans who now have to wait in line, and it is costing taxpayers more money.

While these are master's degree-level counselors who provide great services to our veterans every single day, they do not have the expertise to understand how to build a wheelchair ramp, affix a grab bar to a wall, or implement other home adaptations. This bill would simply transfer these responsibilities to VA's Specially Adapted Housing program, where they deal with these kinds of construction projects every day.

This change is needed. It will save the taxpayers money, and, most importantly, it will help our disabled veterans immensely by ensuring that they have the right people on the job to address their service-connected disabilities in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, as we head into Veterans Day this upcoming weekend, I just want to take a moment of personal privilege and say what an honor it has been to serve on the VA Committee and chair the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, and I want to thank, especially, the chairman for that opportunity. It is humbling to know that in some small way I can do my part on behalf of the people of west Texas to serve those who put their lives on the line for all of us.

Veterans represent the very best of what this country was built on: service

before self. I say this because, at a time when our country's culture and political environment seems so divided, the one thing that continues to bring us together as Americans is our servicemembers and veterans.

When they raised their right hand and swore an oath to defend their fellow citizens, they did not care if we were from a red State or a blue State, Republican or Democrat. They did it for love of country and to protect not only their family and friends, but also the stranger whom they will never meet.

That is why I am also very proud that, when we consider veterans legislation as we are doing today and tomorrow, we are doing the two most important things expected by all Americans: working together to solve problems, and delivering on our promise to the American people. I believe that the cumulative effect of commonsense measures such as the bill that we are considering today are helping to deliver on those promises.

I want to thank Chairman ROE, again, and also House leadership on both sides for helping us bring this bill through our committee and to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the leadership of my ranking member, friend, and fellow west Texan, Mr. BETO O'ROURKE, in getting this bill introduced and to where it is today.

I know that our fellow Americans would strongly agree with me that our veterans, especially our disabled veterans, deserve the very best services their country can provide, and this bill is another step towards doing just that. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3562 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide funding for home adaptations for severely disabled veterans within the Vocational, Rehabilitation, and Employment, or VR&E, program.

Currently, VA provides severely disabled veterans assistance to lead a more independent life through the VR&E program, which can include help with adaptive housing. However, as their name suggests, VR&E counselors are primarily trained to provide vocational and employment assistance, and they do not necessarily have the expertise to provide the best guidance on adaptive housing.

The agents and contractors who are part of VA's Specially Adaptive Housing program, however, do have this expertise. The SAH program is specifically geared towards helping severely disabled veterans with adapting their homes to be equipped for independent living.

Therefore, in order to better serve severely disabled veterans, this bill authorizes the SAH program to provide assistance to home adaptations for

VR&E-eligible veterans. The amount of assistance would be capped at the same level of funding that is currently provided to SAH-eligible veterans.

This is a solution that puts the right VA employee in charge of assisting a disabled veteran to adapt their home. This will also reduce the workload on VR&E counselors, allowing them to spend more time helping veterans with employment services.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of legislation that I am proud members of our committee continue to bring forward. While it is not as flashy as the GI Bill package we passed earlier this year or Care in the Community legislation we are working on later this week, this bill gets to the core of what this Congress should be about: making it easier for disabled veterans to receive the benefits they have earned.

I commend Mr. ARRINGTON and Mr. O'ROURKE for looking at a challenge and working with the administration and veterans groups to craft this important bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3562.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3562, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3562.

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. ROE. 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.

VA MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 1066) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1066

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 "VA Management Alignment Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report (including recommendations for legislation the Secretary considers appropriate) regarding the roles, responsibility, and accountability of elements and individuals of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—In creating the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) utilize the results of—

(A) the Independent Assessment of the Health Care Delivery Systems and Management Process of the Department of Veterans Affairs established by section 201 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146);

(B) any study or report by the Commission on Care established by section 202 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146); and

(C) other studies or reports, including a report titled "Task Force on Improving Effectiveness of VHA Governance: Report to the VHA Under Secretary for Health", dated February 28, 2015; and

(2) specify clearly delineated roles and responsibilities to optimize the organizational effectiveness and accountability of each—

(A) Administration, staff office, or staff organization;

(B) subordinate organization of each Administration, staff office, or staff organization; and

(C) key leader of the Department in relation to any Administration, staff office, or staff organization, Veteran Integrated Service Network, or medical facility.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term "key leader of the Department" includes—

(1) the Secretary;

(2) the Deputy Secretary;

(3) each Under Secretary;

(4) each Assistant Secretary;

(5) each Deputy Assistant Secretary;

(6) the Chief Financial Officer;

(7) the Chief Information Officer;

(8) the General Counsel;

(9) the Inspector General;

(10) the Director of Construction and Facilities Management;

(11) the Chief of Staff;

(12) the Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals;

(13) the Vice Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals;

(14) the Director of each Veterans Integrated Service Network; and

(15) the Director of each medical facility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman

from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1066.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, Americans will once again take time to remember and honor the sacrifices of the very few of our fellow Americans who have sworn a solemn oath to defend this great Nation.

As an Army Medical Corps veteran myself, I am proud that, with the support of leadership and Members of both sides, we will pass a series of bills today and tomorrow that improve the delivery of healthcare and enhance the benefits available to America's veterans.

On our first bill, H.R. 1066, the VA Management Alignment Act, issues with the organization and management of the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, in general, are nothing new. In 2015, the independent assessment found VA's organizational structure to be unnecessarily complex, rampant with mistrust and risk aversion, confused about priorities and strategic direction, and hampered by a workforce that was losing motivation and a leadership team that was overwhelmed by crisis management. In 2016, the Commission on Care found VA to have one of the lowest organizational health scores in all of the Federal Government and lacking effective national policies and a rational organizational structure.

Similar findings have been made by veterans, veterans service organizations, VA employees, the Government Accountability Office, the VA inspector general, and others in countless reports and testimony and stories over the last several years. They have also been common themes in the recent oversight hearings and site visits.

In order to improve the care, benefits, and services that VA provides to our Nation's veterans and increase accountability for poor-performing employees, VA must first clarify and rationalize the Department's organizational structure and the roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority for supervisors, managers, and employees.

H.R. 1066 would jump-start that effort by requiring the VA to use the work the independent assessment, the Commission on Care, and others have already done to create a report on how the Department is to be structured—to include clearly defined roles and responsibilities of key leaders across all

levels—and submit it to Congress for review.

I am grateful to Representative KILMER for sponsoring this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1066, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1066, the VA Management Alignment Act of 2017, as introduced by my colleague from Washington, the most excellent Representative, DEREK KILMER. His advocacy and hard work on behalf of veterans is commendable.

This bipartisan measure will require the VA Secretary to report to Congress on the roles, responsibilities, and accountability of employees within VA.

This oversight is sorely needed. Last Congress, in testimony before the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the bipartisan co-chairs of the Commission on Care both highlighted how little attention is paid to the VA's human resources to ensure the Department is functioning efficiently. Representative KILMER's legislation will help lead to a VA that more effectively meets veterans' needs.

I have enjoyed working with Representative KILMER to advance this legislation through committee and truly appreciate his work on this issue.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

□ 1645

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that military veterans have access to the benefits and services that they have earned. These men and women have had our backs, and we need to have theirs.

We can't stand by as they endure challenges seeing doctors or getting treatment because of management failures and unnecessary bureaucratic barriers. Taxpayers have spent millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars, to identify how the VA is broken and to identify opportunities to fix it.

The Government Accountability Office has raised specific suggestions related to management issues, but, unfortunately, the VA has implemented few, if any, of these solutions, and that cannot stand.

How can our Nation's veterans expect to get what they have earned if the leaders and components of the VA are not expected to cooperate with one another? How can they expect to see medical providers if the VA cannot bring in or maintain talented medical professionals?

The VA Management Alignment Act is a bipartisan effort to address these

and other management problems that have real consequences on the delivery of care to our friends, our neighbors, and to our loved ones.

Representative NEWHOUSE and I drafted this bill with input from the Government Accountability Office to bring an end to this disjointed and inefficient system. The bill would require the Secretary to outline the roles, responsibilities, and accountability measures of senior leaders and branches of the VA and to provide Congress with a series of legislative options to assist the Secretary in realizing positive change.

The goal of this bill is to help Congress and the administration work together to fix these problems. The goal of this bill is to make sure veterans get the care and the benefits that they have earned.

I would like to thank Chairman ROE and Ranking Member WALZ for their leadership and support in moving this bill forward. I would like to thank my colleague from California (Mr. TAKANO) for his help as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help us align the VA into a system that can deliver on our Nation's responsibilities to our military veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1066, the VA Management Alignment Act of 2017.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1066.

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. ROE of Tennessee. 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.

VETERANS CARE FINANCIAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3122) to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3122

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 "Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE OF DISHONEST, PREDATORY, OR OTHERWISE UNLAWFUL PRACTICES TARGETING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR INCREASED PENSION ON BASIS OF NEED FOR REGULAR AID AND ATTENDANCE.

(a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall include on the internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a warning to veterans relating to dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices targeting individuals who are eligible for increased pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, on the basis of need for regular aid and attendance.

(b) GAO STUDY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study on financial exploitation of veterans. Such study shall include—

(A) an analysis of the types of standards used by Federal and State agencies intended to protect vulnerable populations from financial exploitation; and

(B) an analysis of the types of financial exploitation facing veterans who are eligible for increased pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, on the basis of need for regular aid and attendance and any gaps in efforts to address these issues.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a preliminary report on the study required under paragraph (1).

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a final report on such study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3122, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3122, as amended, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, VA offers an additional pension benefit called Aid and Attendance, or A&A, to some disabled or elderly veterans who need help with activities of daily living such as dressing or bathing.

It may come as a shock to many Americans, but there are people out there who actually take advantage of elderly and disabled veterans by charging them money to help them apply for A&A benefits when the application process is free. If veterans need help

filling out the application, veterans service organizations like The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, VFW, and others will help, at no charge, even if the veteran is not a member of the organization.

Unfortunately, there are many veterans who don't know that the free help is available and, more importantly, that it is illegal to charge them a dime to file a claim. So some veterans may end up falling prey to these dishonest individuals.

H.R. 3122 would help educate veterans and their families by requiring VA to post warnings on its website about scammers who actually take money from our Nation's most vulnerable veterans for a service that should be free.

The bill would also require GAO to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on how to better protect vulnerable veterans from being taken advantage of.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3122, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3122, as amended, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017, and thank the bill's sponsor, the congressman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), for introducing it.

Veterans who served during wartime, and their spouses, may be eligible to receive pension benefits if they meet certain income and other eligibility requirements. Such veterans and survivors may also be eligible for additional financial benefits, known as Aid and Attendance, if the applicant needs assistance performing personal functions required in everyday living such as bathing, feeding, and dressing.

Now, VA does not charge veterans and their families to apply for Aid and Attendance benefits. In addition, veterans service organizations, such as The American Legion and VFW, offer free assistance to veterans and their families who wish to apply for this benefit.

Yet, in all parts of the country, some individuals attempt to charge fees for helping veterans apply for Aid and Attendance benefits. According to organizations, such as AARP and the Federal Trade Commission, senior veterans have increasingly become subject to scams involving insurance agents and financial planners trying to convince veterans to make quick decisions about pursuing Aid and Attendance in addition to their pension incomes. Some scammers use false representations such as suggesting automatic entitlement to benefits.

Of greater concern, though, are those who help the veteran restructure financial assets in order to qualify for pension and/or Aid and Attendance. For example, moving financial assets into a pooled-asset irrevocable trust might render a veteran eligible for pension

and Aid and Attendance, despite having assets in excess of the qualifying income thresholds.

While it appears that this would benefit the veteran, what these salesmen do not tell them is that this type of restructuring might preclude them from Medicaid eligibility because of rules such as a 5-year look-back period, which considers whether one has moved substantial assets at less than market value.

H.R. 3122, as amended, would require that VA post warnings on its website about dishonest individuals who would charge fees to this very vulnerable group of veterans and their families to help beneficiaries apply for pension with Aid and Attendance benefits.

Now, this bill would also require GAO to submit a report to Congress on the types of standards used by Federal and State agencies intended to protect vulnerable populations from financial exploitation, an analysis of the types of financial exploitation facing veterans who are eligible for Aid and Attendance benefits, and any other gaps and efforts to address these issues.

H.R. 3122, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act, enjoys broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives as well as from our veterans service organizations. I want to also acknowledge the work of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chairman MIKE BOST and Ranking Member ELIZABETH ESTY for their efforts to protect veterans.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, with Veterans Day approaching rapidly, I find it particularly fitting that we raise this important issue today, an issue affecting our veterans that should concern all of us here in the Congress.

As Americans, we enter into a moral covenant with our armed services, with the men and women warfighters that we send into harm's way. It is a covenant that says: you do this for us, and we will take care of you when the time comes, when you need us. It is a covenant that our honoring is of paramount importance, and there is no one here in the people's House who wants to turn his or her back on that covenant.

As part of this enduring covenant and commitment to those who have served our Nation, the VA provides, as has been mentioned, a modest Aid and Attendance benefit to low-income veterans in need of our support. It is a benefit that helps pay for assisted living and in-home personal care for veterans who qualify for VA pension and are homebound or require the aid and assistance of another person.

Unfortunately, as Dr. ROE mentioned, a number of unscrupulous scam artists are out there taking advantage of this commitment and this benefit provided to our veterans. They abuse the VA system by deliberately misleading our veterans into thinking they have to pay application fees, into creating damaging irrevocable trusts, into paying extra fees for so-called expediting these applications when no such expediting is available, and for paying any fees at all when, as has been mentioned, the veterans service organizations do it for free.

Practices such as these leave vulnerable, elderly veterans with few choices outside of draining their own remaining assets. My bill, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017, is a bipartisan, commonsense approach that will direct Federal agencies to work with the States and outside experts to establish standards that will prevent this kind of exploitation of our veterans and protect them from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices relating to the A&A benefit, and it will require a report from the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and report to Congress on how better to protect veterans from these scam artists.

Mr. Speaker, we owe our veterans, who have made great sacrifices for all of us, the protection and benefits that they deserve, and, as such, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

I want to thank the chairman of the VA committee, Dr. ROE from Tennessee; its ranking member, Mr. WALZ from Minnesota; and the entire Veterans' Affairs Committee for taking up this bill. And I would also like to thank, over in the Senate, Senator WARREN, for her hard work on this bill in the Senate as well.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate my remarks to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT). He is absolutely 100 percent correct. To have a vulnerable veteran, an elderly veteran in need who served this country, maybe in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and then to have them taken advantage of is incomprehensible to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and again, I strongly support H.R. 3122, as amended, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this needed legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3122, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a warning regarding dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices targeting individuals who are eligible for increased pension on the basis of need for regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

PROVIDING FOR A CONSISTENT ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR PROVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3656

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS' SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHOSE REMAINS ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS.

Section 2306(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "The" and inserting "An individual who dies on or after November 11, 1998, who is the"; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking "An" and inserting "An individual who dies on or after November 11, 1998, who is an".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3656, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3656, as amended.

Under current law, VA may provide a memorial headstone or marker for a

veteran's dependent child or surviving spouse if their remains are unavailable. But this law also contains an inconsistency. VA can provide a memorial headstone or marker for a spouse who dies on or after November 11, 1998, but can only provide one for a dependent child who dies on or after December 22, 2006.

The disparity makes it difficult for VA to administer this law. More importantly, it has led to some confusion among veterans and their families as to whether a particular family member is eligible for this benefit or not.

These families are not just mourning, but they are also coping with the heartbreak of not being able to properly lay their loved one to rest because the remains have not been recovered. I am concerned that it is possible that these families may not request a memorial VA headstone or marker because they aren't sure if they qualify. I hope that this bill will bring these families some peace by allowing VA to provide a permanent memorial marker to ensure their loved one will not be forgotten.

H.R. 3656 would help avoid confusion by making the eligibility dates for the memorial markers consistent for surviving spouses and dependent children. This may seem like a small change, but I know it will be very important to grieving families who want to ensure that their loved ones are properly memorialized.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3656, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3656, as amended, which resolves an inconsistency in the eligibility for non-veteran spouses and children receiving memorial headstones. The legislation ensures a consistent applicability date for memorial headstones and markers for eligible nonveteran individuals whose remains are not available.

Under current law, a surviving spouse who dies on or after November 11, 1998, is eligible for a headstone or marker. But for dependent children who pass away, the date of eligibility for a headstone or marker does not occur until December 22, 2006.

This arbitrary difference causes situations in which VA can provide a marker for the parent, but not the dependent child. Clearly, this change would make it easier for surviving family members to make funeral and burial plans.

H.R. 3656, as amended, is supported by the major veteran service organizations and enjoys bipartisan support in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3656, as amended, and I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), an active member

of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a Navy veteran.

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROE for his hard work on behalf of our veterans as chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am very proud to serve on that committee under his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, because our veterans answered the call and served our country, we, in turn, must serve them and their families.

This commitment extends to assisting them in medical recovery, in successfully transitioning to the civilian workforce, and, just as importantly, in properly memorializing their lives when they are gone.

Current law provides memorial headstones for veterans and for their spouses and children when the remains of the deceased cannot be found. This can occur in unfortunate cases, such as a boating or a plane accident.

Public Law 105-368 provides headstones for spouses, and it was enacted in 1998. Public Law 109-461 provides headstones for dependent children, and it was enacted in 2006. Both groups are eligible for this benefit as of the date of enactment. However, as has already been said, it is unfortunate that these two laws did not go into effect at the same time, potentially opening the door for a parent to receive this benefit, but not a child.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 3656, would amend title 38 of the United States Code to provide for a consistent eligibility date for spouses and dependent children. The date for both would be set at the current date for spouses: November 11, 1998.

This bill is especially necessary for the few tragic cases in which a spouse and a dependent child both passed away in the same accident during a period when these two laws were not in sync. We need to correct this situation.

My legislation is a practical fix to take care of our veterans and their families, and to keep our commitment to them. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 3656.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. Again, I strongly support H.R. 3656, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this commonsense piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3656, 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.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR THE GRAVES OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS WHO ARE BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3657) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3657

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL BENEFITS.

Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “or a veterans’ cemetery owned by a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization” after “State”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “, a veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization” after “owned by a State”; and

(3) in subsection (f)—
(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) The Secretary”;

(C) by striking “a national cemetery or in a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title” and inserting “a covered cemetery”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The term ‘covered cemetery’ means any of the following:

“(A) A national cemetery.

“(B) A veterans’ cemetery of a State for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title.

“(C) A veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on tribal land owned by or held in trust by a tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under such section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3657, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3657, as amended.

VA provides headstones and markers for the spouses or dependent children of veterans who are interred in a national or State veterans cemetery at no charge. But VA is not authorized to provide headstones or markers for spouses and dependent children who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries. That is not right.

There is no reason that veterans and their families who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries shouldn’t receive the same benefits as those who decide to use national or State veterans cemeteries.

H.R. 3657 would allow VA to provide headstones and markers for eligible family members who are interred in Tribal veterans cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative POLIQUIN for introducing this bill. I know he has a special interest in this because his district includes a Tribal veterans cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3657, and ensure that veterans who choose to be interred in Tribal cemeteries are given the same recognition that we give to veterans who are interred in national or State veterans cemeteries.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3657, as amended, which would authorize VA to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in Tribal cemeteries.

VA currently provides a headstone or a marker for eligible spouses or dependent children who are buried or interred in a national, military post, or State veterans cemetery. However, spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker if they are buried in a private or Tribal cemetery.

H.R. 3657, as amended, would resolve this inequity by ensuring that veterans’ spouses and children who are buried at Tribal veterans cemeteries are provided government-furnished headstones or markers, which would be the same treatment family members buried at national and State veterans cemeteries receive.

H.R. 3657, as amended, enjoys broad, bipartisan support among the Members of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and I wish to thank the bill’s sponsor, Representative BRUCE POLIQUIN, for his sponsorship and the work of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee for bringing it to the floor.

Native-American veterans have earned, and deserve, the same rights, privileges, and honors that other veterans receive. For this reason, I strongly support H.R. 3657, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), my good friend and member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful that the House will be voting on this commonsense piece of legislation tonight. I am very proud to represent the Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians in Houlton, Maine, who created the first Tribal veterans cemetery not only in Maine, but also along the entire East Coast.

This past summer, Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised to learn that family members of veterans buried at Tribal cemeteries are not provided the same treatment as those buried at State and national veterans cemeteries. H.R. 3657 fixes this issue permanently.

Specifically, it would ensure that the family members of veterans who are buried at Tribal cemeteries—such as the Maliseet Indian Tribal cemetery in Houlton—are provided with government-furnished headstones, the same treatment as those buried at national and State veterans cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, we are all Americans. People who put on the uniform—whether a man or a woman, whoever they are, wherever they live, or whatever cemetery they are buried in—deserve the same respect, the same honor, and the same treatment.

I am thrilled to tell everybody listening here that this moved out of committee—this commonsense fix—this bill moved out of committee with unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for that to happen tonight when it appears on the floor, and I am grateful for our chairman to bring this up tonight.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Again, I strongly support H.R. 3657, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both sides of the aisle for these great bills we are passing this afternoon. It may seem like a small bill to the American public, but to the individual that is affected—in Maine, or wherever it may be—this is a huge deal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Democratic side for all of the work they have done on the committee in a bipartisan way. It is a great committee to work on.

This is a very important week for all of us, as we go home this Friday to begin celebrating Veterans Day. Two very important days on the committee are Memorial Day and Veterans Day, to honor those who passed and those who are still with us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both the Republicans and the Democrats. We put that at the door’s edge, and this week we will be voting on some important pieces of legislation. We have seven more bills on the floor tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for the support they have given our veterans in this country.

I once again urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3657, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 15 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. MITCHELL) 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:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3562;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1066; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS OF RESIDENCES OF VETERANS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3562) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of resi-

dences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 607]

YEAS—400

Abraham	Courtney	Heck
Adams	Cramer	Hensarling
Aderholt	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Aguilar	Crist	Hice, Jody B.
Allen	Crowley	Higgins (LA)
Amash	Cuellar	Higgins (NY)
Amodei	Culberson	Hill
Arington	Cummings	Himes
Babin	Curbelo (FL)	Holding
Bacon	Davidson	Hollingsworth
Banks (IN)	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Barletta	Davis, Danny	Hudson
Barr	Davis, Rodney	Huffman
Barragán	DeFazio	Huizenga
Barton	DeGette	Hultgren
Bass	DeLauro	Hunter
Beatty	DelBene	Hurd
Bera	Demings	Issa
Bergman	Denham	Jackson Lee
Beyer	Dent	Jayapal
Biggs	DeSantis	Jeffries
Bilirakis	DeSaulnier	Jenkins (KS)
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Jenkins (WV)
Bishop (MI)	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Doggett	Johnson (LA)
Black	Donovan	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Doyle, Michael	Johnson, Sam
Blumenauer	F.	Jordan
Blunt Rochester	Duffy	Joyce (OH)
Bonamici	Duncan (SC)	Kaptur
Bost	Duncan (TN)	Katko
Brady (PA)	Dunn	Keating
Brady (TX)	Ellison	Kelly (IL)
Brat	Emmer	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Engel	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Eshoo	Kennedy
Brown (MD)	Español	Khanna
Brownley (CA)	Estes (KS)	Kihuen
Buchanan	Esty (CT)	Kildee
Buck	Evans	Kilmer
Bucshon	Farenthold	Kind
Budd	Faso	King (IA)
Burgess	Ferguson	King (NY)
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Kinzing
Butterfield	Fleischmann	Knight
Byrne	Flores	Krishnamoorthi
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kuster (NH)
Capuano	Poster	Kustoff (TN)
Carbajal	Fox	Labrador
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	LaHood
Carson (IN)	Franks (AZ)	LaMalfa
Carter (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Lamborn
Carter (TX)	Fudge	Lance
Cartwright	Gabbard	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Gaetz	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Gallagher	Latta
Chabot	Gallgo	Lawrence
Cheney	Garamendi	Lawson (FL)
Chu, Judy	Gianforte	Lee
Cicilline	Gibbs	Levin
Clarke (NY)	Gomez	Lewis (GA)
Clay	Gonzalez (TX)	Lewis (MN)
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Lieu, Ted
Clyburn	Gosar	Lipinski
Coffman	Gottheimer	LoBiondo
Cohen	Graves (GA)	Loeb
Cole	Graves (LA)	Lofgren
Collins (GA)	Graves (MO)	Long
Collins (NY)	Green, Al	Loudermilk
Comer	Green, Gene	Love
Comstock	Griffith	Lowenthal
Conaway	Grijalva	Lowey
Connolly	Grothman	Lucas
Conyers	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Cook	Hanabusa	Lujan Grisham,
Cooper	Handel	M.
Correa	Harper	Luján, Ben Ray
Costa	Harris	Lynch
Costello (PA)	Hartzler	MacArthur

Marchant	Price (NC)	Smith (NE)
Marino	Quigley	Smith (NJ)
Marshall	Raskin	Smith (TX)
Massie	Ratcliffe	Smith (WA)
Mast	Reed	Smucker
Matsui	Reichert	Soto
McCarthy	Renacci	Speier
McCaul	Rice (NY)	Stefanik
McClintock	Rice (SC)	Stewart
McCollum	Richmond	Stivers
McEachin	Roby	Suozi
McGovern	Roe (TN)	Swalwell (CA)
McHenry	Rogers (AL)	Takano
McKinley	Rogers (KY)	Taylor
McMorris	Rokita	Tenney
Rodgers	Rooney, Francis	Thompson (CA)
McSally	Rooney, Thomas	Thompson (PA)
Meadows	J.	Tiberi
Meehan	Ros-Lehtinen	Tipton
Meng	Rosen	Titus
Mitchell	Roskam	Tonko
Moolenaar	Ross	Torres
Mooney (WV)	Rothfus	Trott
Moore	Rouzer	Tsongas
Moulton	Royce (CA)	Turner
Mullin	Ruiz	Vargas
Murphy (FL)	Ruppersberger	Veasey
Nadler	Rush	Vela
Napolitano	Russell	Velázquez
Neal	Rutherford	Visclosky
Newhouse	Ryan (OH)	Wagner
Noem	Sánchez	Walberg
Nolan	Sanford	Walden
Norcross	Sarbanes	Walker
Norman	Scalise	Walorski
Nunes	Schakowsky	Walters, Mimi
O'Halloran	Schiff	Walz
O'Rourke	Schneider	Wasserman
Olson	Schrader	Schultz
Palazzo	Schweikert	Waters, Maxine
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Panetta	Scott, David	Webster (FL)
Pascarella	Sensenbrenner	Welch
Paulsen	Serrano	Wenstrup
Payne	Sessions	Westerman
Pearce	Sewell (AL)	Williams
Pelosi	Shea-Porter	Wilson (SC)
Perry	Sherman	Wittman
Peters	Shimkus	Womack
Peterson	Shuster	Woodall
Pingree	Simpson	Yarmuth
Pittenger	Sinema	Yoder
Poe (TX)	Sires	Yoho
Poliquin	Slaughter	Young (IA)
Posey	Smith (MO)	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—32

Blackburn	Gutiérrez	Pocan
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Polis
F.	Johnson, E. B.	Rohrabacher
Bridenstine	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Clark (MA)	Langevin	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Maloney,	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Carolyn B.	Upton
Diaz-Balart	Maloney, Sean	Valadao
Garrett	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Gohmert	Meeks	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Messer	
Granger	Perlmutter	

□ 1853

Mses. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and MOORE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK IN SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attack in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

VA MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1066) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 608]

YEAS—399

Abraham	Cartwright	Doyle, Michael
Adams	Castor (FL)	F.
Aderholt	Castro (TX)	Duffy
Aguilar	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Allen	Cheney	Duncan (TN)
Amash	Chu, Judy	Dunn
Amodei	Cicilline	Ellison
Arrington	Clarke (NY)	Emmer
Babin	Clay	Engel
Bacon	Cleaver	Eshoo
Banks (IN)	Clyburn	Espallat
Barletta	Coffman	Estes (KS)
Barr	Cohen	Esty (CT)
Barragán	Cole	Evans
Barton	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Bass	Collins (NY)	Faso
Beatty	Comer	Ferguson
Bera	Comstock	Fitzpatrick
Bergman	Conaway	Fleischmann
Beyer	Connelly	Flores
Biggs	Conyers	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Cook	Foster
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Fox
Bishop (MI)	Correa	Frankel (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Black	Costello (PA)	Frelinghuysen
Blum	Courtney	Fudge
Blumenauer	Cramer	Gabbard
Blunt Rochester	Crawford	Gaetz
Bonamici	Crist	Gallagher
Bost	Crowley	Galleo
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Garamendi
Brady (TX)	Culberson	Gianforte
Brat	Cummings	Gibbs
Brooks (AL)	Curbelo (FL)	Gohmert
Brooks (IN)	Davidson	Gomez
Brown (MD)	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez (TX)
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Danny	Goodlatte
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Gosar
Buck	DeFazio	Gottheimer
Bucshon	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Budd	DeLauro	Graves (LA)
Burgess	DelBene	Graves (MO)
Bustos	Demings	Green, Al
Butterfield	Denham	Green, Gene
Byrne	Dent	Griffith
Calvert	DeSantis	Grijalva
Capuano	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Carbajal	Deutch	Guthrie
Cárdenas	Dingell	Hanabusa
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Handel
Carter (GA)	Donovan	Harper
Carter (TX)		Harris

Hartzler	Massie	Ryan (OH)
Heck	Mast	Sánchez
Hensarling	Matsui	Sanford
Herrera Beutler	McCarthy	Sarbanes
Hice, Jody B.	McCaul	Scalise
Higgins (LA)	McClintock	Schakowsky
Higgins (NY)	McCollum	Schiff
Hill	McEachin	Schneider
Himes	McGovern	Schrader
Holding	McHenry	Schweikert
Hollingsworth	McKinley	Scott (VA)
Hoyer	McMorris	Scott, Austin
Hudson	Rodgers	Scott, David
Huffman	McSally	Sensenbrenner
Huizenga	Meadows	Serrano
Hultgren	Meehan	Sessions
Hunter	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Hurd	Mitchell	Shea-Porter
Issa	Moolenaar	Sherman
Jackson Lee	Mooney (WV)	Shimkus
Jayapal	Moore	Shuster
Jeffries	Moulton	Simpson
Jenkins (KS)	Mullin	Sinema
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Slaughter
Johnson (LA)	Napolitano	Smith (MO)
Johnson (OH)	Neal	Smith (NE)
Johnson, Sam	Noem	Smith (NJ)
Jordan	Nolan	Smith (TX)
Joyce (OH)	Norcross	Smith (WA)
Kaptur	Norman	Smucker
Katko	Nunes	Soto
Keating	O'Halleran	Speier
Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Stefanik
Kelly (MS)	Olson	Stewart
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Stivers
Kennedy	Pallone	Suozzi
Khanna	Palmer	Swalwell (CA)
Kihuen	Panetta	Takano
Kildee	Pascarella	Taylor
Kilmer	Paulsen	Tenney
Kind	Payne	Thompson (CA)
King (IA)	Pearce	Thompson (PA)
King (NY)	Pelosi	Tiberi
Kinzinger	Perry	Tipton
Knight	Peters	Titus
Krishnamoorthi	Peterson	Tonko
Kuster (NH)	Pingree	Torres
Kustoff (TN)	Pittenger	Trott
Labrador	Poe (TX)	Tsongas
LaHood	Poliquin	Turner
LaMalfa	Posey	Vargas
Lamborn	Price (NC)	Veasey
Lance	Quigley	Vela
Larsen (WA)	Raskin	Velázquez
Latta	Ratcliffe	Visclosky
Lawrence	Reed	Wagner
Lee	Reichert	Walberg
Lee	Renacci	Walden
Levin	Rice (NY)	Walker
Lewis (GA)	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Lewis (MN)	Richmond	Walters, Mimi
Lieu, Ted	Roby	Walz
Lipinski	Roe (TN)	Wasserman
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Schultz
Loeb	Rogers (KY)	Waters, Maxine
Lofgren	Rokita	Watson Coleman
Long	Rooney, Francis	Weber (TX)
Loudermilk	Rooney, Thomas	Webster (FL)
Love	J.	Welch
Lowenthal	Ros-Lehtinen	Wenstrup
Lowe	Rosen	Westerman
Lucas	Roskam	Williams
Luetkemeyer	Ross	Wilson (SC)
Lujan Grisham,	Rothfus	Wittman
M.	Rouzer	Womack
Luján, Ben Ray	Royce (CA)	Woodall
Lynch	Ruiz	Yarmuth
MacArthur	Ruppersberger	Yoder
Marchant	Rush	Yoho
Marino	Russell	Young (IA)
Marshall	Rutherford	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—33

Blackburn	Hastings	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Johnson, E. B.	Pocan
F.	Jones	Polis
Bridenstine	Langevin	Rohrabacher
Clark (MA)	Clark (CT)	Roybal-Allard
Delaney	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
DesJarlais	Carolyn B.	Thornberry
Diaz-Balart	Maloney, Sean	Upton
Garrett	McNerney	Valadao
Gowdy	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Granger	Messer	Young (AK)
Gutiérrez	Newhouse	

□ 1903

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 608 and "yea" on rollcall No. 607.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 169, answered "present" 3, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—222

Abraham	Donovan	Lamborn
Aderholt	Doyle, Michael	Levin
Allen	F.	Lewis (MN)
Amodei	Duncan (SC)	Lipinski
Arrington	Duncan (TN)	Long
Bacon	Emmer	Loudermilk
Banks (IN)	Engel	Love
Barletta	Eshoo	Lowenthal
Barr	Espallat	Lowe
Barton	Estes (KS)	Lucas
Beatty	Evans	Luetkemeyer
Bilirakis	Farenthold	Lujan Grisham,
Bishop (UT)	Faso	M.
Black	Ferguson	Marino
Blumenauer	Fleischmann	Marshall
Blunt Rochester	Fortenberry	Massie
Bonamici	Foster	McCarthy
Brat	Frankel (FL)	McCaul
Brooks (AL)	Franks (AZ)	McClintock
Brooks (IN)	Frelinghuysen	McCollum
Brown (MD)	Gabbard	McEachin
Buchanan	Garamendi	McHenry
Bucshon	Gianforte	McMorris
Bustos	Gibbs	Rodgers
Butterfield	Goodlatte	Meadows
Cohen	Green, Al	Meng
Cole	Griffith	Moolenaar
Collins (NY)	Grothman	Mooney (WV)
Comer	Guthrie	Moore
Comstock	Hanabusa	Moulton
Conyers	Handel	Mullin
Cook	Harper	Murphy (FL)
Cooper	Harris	Nadler
Courtney	Heck	Napolitano
Cramer	Hensarling	Newhouse
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	Norman
Crist	Higgins (LA)	Nunes
Crowley	Higgins (NY)	O'Rourke
Cuellar	Himes	Olson
Culberson	Hollingsworth	Pascarella
Cummings	Huffman	Pelosi
Curbelo (FL)	Huizenga	Pingree
Davidson	Hultgren	Posey
Davis (CA)	Hurd	Reichert
Davis, Danny	Issa	Richmond
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (GA)	Roby
DeFazio	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (KY)
DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Rooney, Francis
DeLauro	Kaptur	Rooney, Thomas
DelBene	Kelly (MS)	J.
Demings	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Denham	Kennedy	Ross
Dent	Kildee	Rothfus
DeSantis	King (IA)	Royce (CA)
DeSaulnier	Krishnamoorthi	Ruppersberger
Deutch	Kuster (NH)	Russell
Dingell	Kustoff (TN)	Sánchez
Doggett	Labrador	Sanford
Donovan	LaMalfa	Scalise

Schiff
Schneider
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Takano
Taylor
Tiberi
Titus
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Vela
Wagner
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Vela
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—169

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Babin
Barragán
Bass
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Budd
Burgess
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Cheney
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coffman
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Crist
Crowley
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Denham
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Duffy
Esty (CT)
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Foxx
Fudge
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gosar
Gotthaimer

Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Hartzler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Hunter
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
LaHood
Lance
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Lieu, Ted
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Marchant
Mast
Matsui
McGovern
McKinley
McSally
Meehan
Mitchell
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran

Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Price (NC)
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schrader
Sewell (AL)
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smucker
Soto
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Turner
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Walberg
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Woodall
Yoder

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—3

Ellison

Rice (SC)

Tonko

NOT VOTING—38

Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Clark (MA)
Collins (GA)
Delaney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dunn
Garrett
Gohmert
Gowdy
Granger

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hastings
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Maloney
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
McNerney
Meeks
Messer
Perlmutter

Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Upton
Valadao
Visclosky
Wilson (FL)
Young (AK)

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 607, "yea" on rollcall No. 608, and "yea" on rollcall No. 609.

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS, SHOOTING

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that we rise today to address the American people.

Yesterday morning, a gunman stormed into a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, a small town of about 400 or 500 individuals, and brutally murdered 26 innocent lives, including at least 12 children, marking the worst shooting in Texas history.

Today we grieve the horrific loss of dozens of innocent people. We pray for the victims' families, who are grasping for answers with broken hearts.

I have spoken personally with Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt, County Commissioner Albert Gamez, and other citizens of that area to assist in any way that we can.

In the coming hours and days, we will learn more about the victims of this tragedy, their names, their faces, their stories, the joy they brought their families and their friends.

We are fully committed to helping Sutherland Springs recover from this senseless tragedy, and we ask every Member of Congress to join us to support this recovery.

To the people of Sutherland Springs, I stand with you, we stand with you, the House of Representatives stands with you, and the people of the United States of America stand with you. May God bless all of you.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, HYDROPOWER POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3441, SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS ACT

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-391) on the resolution (H. Res. 607) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) to modernize hydro-power policy, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3441) to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 3, 2017, I was un-

avoidably detained attending to representation duties in my district and was not present for rollcall votes 605 and 606.

I would like to have reflected in the RECORD, on rollcall vote 605, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017.

On rollcall vote 606, I would have voted "no" on the passage of H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017.

On Friday, November 3, 2017, I was unavoidably detained attending to representation duties and was not present for Roll Call Votes 605 and 606. I ask the record to reflect that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall 605, I would have voted "yes." (On the Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017).

2. On Rollcall 606, I would have voted "no." (On Passage of H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017).

□ 1915

EXTENDING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR CENTRAL AMERICANS AND HAITIANS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the lives of over 300,000 legal immigrants are at stake. Central Americans and Haitians, many of whom are my constituents, could be facing deportation if their temporary protected status, known as TPS, were to end. This vital program, signed into law by President George Herbert Walker Bush, has allowed individuals fleeing instability and chaos in their home countries to legally live and work here in the United States.

Reports indicate that the administration is considering eliminating TPS for these populations, a decision that will have negative humanitarian, economic, and national security concerns, and that could undermine U.S. investment in the region.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime supporter of TPS, I urge the administration to continue to extend this program and provide a safe haven for Central Americans and Haitians unable to securely return to their home countries. My heart aches at the thought of massive deportations of good, hardworking people from my hometown.

Mr. Speaker, TPS beneficiaries are important and integral members of our community, and it would be a mistake to turn our backs on them.

DIVERSITY VISAS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ 1911

So the Journal was approved.

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we mourn for the lives lost in the act of terrorism in New York last week. But New Yorkers are resilient. Violence will never break their spirit, and in the Northeast corridor, business has continued as usual.

Sadly, there are folks who want to use last week's terrorist attack for their cynical political reasons. They don't want to treat the root causes of extremism, whether based on racial resentment, twisted interpretations of religion, or political ideology. They do want to stoke fear in order to advance an anti-immigrant agenda, and they are trying to blame the Diversity Visa program for the violence.

Americans are smarter than that.

The Diversity Visa program strengthens the Nation by allowing people from places like Africa and the Caribbean to lawfully immigrate to the United States, where they help fill major shortages in the workforce and drive positive changes in their communities. We need them, and they need us.

Let's not sacrifice our national principles because of a trumped up fear of immigrants.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the world's largest religion continues to be the world's most persecuted religion. Christians are assaulted, murdered, harassed, and their homes and churches increasingly are destroyed.

Recently, in Cairo, while Coptic Christian priest Father Rizkallah was collecting humanitarian aid, he was stabbed to death because he was a Christian.

Now persecution has taken a new twist. While Islamic extremism continues its genocide on Christians and other different sects of Islam, government-sponsored persecution is increasing worldwide. According to Open Doors, 9 of the top 10 countries where persecution exists have large Islam populations. But North Korea, the number one offender, is an atheist nation.

Ethnic nationalism is also a major driver of persecution. Weak and/or totalitarian governments use Christians as scapegoats to keep a grip on power.

Religious freedom is mentioned first in our First Amendment because it is the most important of all freedoms. It is a God-given right for all people of all religions. Americans should lead the way in worldwide religious freedom and in denouncing religious persecution of Christians.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Open Doors USA Persecution of Christians Watch List.

OPEN DOORS USA PERSECUTION OF
CHRISTIANS WATCH LIST 2017

1. North Korea

2. Somalia
3. Afghanistan
4. Pakistan
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Iraq
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea

REPUBLICAN TAX PROPOSAL IS ANTI-LIFE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against the Republican tax proposal to raise taxes on the middle class. Moreover, congressional Republicans claim to be pro-life, but this tax bill takes a very different track.

Republicans eliminate the tax deduction for medical expenses, which will crush millions of seniors and people with chronic illnesses. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Republicans eliminate credits for adoption of children, including disabled children. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Republicans eliminate incentives for employers to provide childcare assistance to employees. This is antilife, not pro-life.

Oh, yes. Republicans also eliminate the student loan interest deduction, making payments for college more expensive. They threw that in there, too. This is antifamily, antilife, not pro-life for the next generation.

Meanwhile, the six biggest Wall Street banks, as well as big pharmaceutical companies, will have their taxes reduced by billions. Excess is rewarded again as taxes are raised on the middle class. The vast majority of benefits will go to big corporations, pushing more jobs offshore.

Multimillionaires are happily adding up their winnings. Trump, his billionaire buddies, and his heirs are laughing all the way to the bank.

The Republican tax plan is immoral, unfair, and antilife. I urge my colleagues to scrap it. Life matters.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD SYNEK, U.S. NAVY VETERAN AND FOUNDER OF FEED OUR VETERANS

(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 Mr. Richard Synek, a veteran of the United States Navy and founder of Feed Our Vets.

Rich served in the Navy during the 1980s and was serving aboard the USS *Peterson* during combat operations against Libya in 1986.

After his military service, Rich worked for the United States Postal Service, serving as postmaster for several local post offices. During his time as postmaster of the Vernon Center Post Office, Rich encountered a World

War II veteran who could only afford to buy one stamp and food for half the month.

After befriending this veteran, Rich bought him groceries so he and his wife could eat. Shortly after, Feed Our Veterans was formed.

Since 2008, Feed Our Veterans has served over 20,000 veterans and their families, providing over 445,000 pounds of food for those in need.

Our community is grateful to Rich for his service in the Navy, but especially for his continued compassionate service to our fellow veterans.

HUB OF HOPE

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I had the wonderful opportunity to join with a group of civic, business, and community leaders to introduce a new program in the city of Philadelphia called Hub of Hope. The brainchild of SEPTA and Project HOME, Hub of Hope is a new initiative to address homelessness in our city.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than 6,000 people are homeless in the city of Philadelphia, and 15,000 are homeless in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ending homelessness requires a team effort on the city, State, and Federal level. I am committed to doing my part to ensure that people do not have to sleep on the streets and that their personal, physical security, and mental health needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner. I look forward to working with the people of SEPTA and Project HOME on the new Hub of Hope program.

Hub of Hope is another tool in our toolbox to help move our middle neighborhoods forward. With tools like Hub of Hope in our toolbox, I know that, together, we can continue to work to build a stronger Philadelphia, block by block.

MILK IS A CORNERSTONE OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL LUNCH

(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, I rise today to talk about a cornerstone of a student school lunch: milk.

Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in the diet of many young Americans, and it provides significant health benefits. But over the past few years, milk consumption has been on the decline in school lunch programs. That is why, together with Representative JOE COURTNEY, I introduced the School Milk Nutrition Act of 2017.

Our bill would ease unnecessary regulations preventing milk consumption

in school lunch programs. The bipartisan bill recognizes the importance of milk to the health and well-being of school children. It also works to improve the variety and availability of milk offered in schools, which was supported by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue earlier this year. In May, Secretary Purdue directed USDA to begin the process of allowing schools to serve 1 percent flavored milk through the school meals program.

When schoolchildren don't drink milk, they are missing out on essential nutrients. I urge my colleagues to support this bill so another generation of children can fall in love with milk.

EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS FOR HAITIANS AND CENTRAL AMERICANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am joining the Congressional Black Caucus to ask for an extension of the temporary protective status for Haitians.

I am absolutely appalled that this government would deny this extension and only allow it for 6 months. Apparently, they are not aware of the scarcity of food in Haiti and the cholera epidemic. All of these challenges are continuing since 2011.

Along with the Haitians, I understand that they have now taken away TPS from 300,000 Hondurans, Nicaraguans, and Salvadorans as well. This is an outrageous act, and it is important for them to act immediately.

I also stand against the scam tax plan. The scam tax plan would, in fact, take away opportunities for Americans to have higher education, build the deficit way beyond one's recognition, would not create jobs, would send jobs overseas, would allow for 80 percent of the benefits to go to the top 1 percent, and, frankly, would provide no benefits for middle class, hardworking Americans.

This plan is not tax cuts and jobs; it is a tax scam with no jobs.

I ask my colleagues to vote against this tax bill, and I ask this administration to do what is right and provide humanitarian relief and extend the TPS for Haitians and all others similarly situated for 18 months.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SPILLWAY AT THE OROVILLE DAM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, after the near disaster we had in Butte County, near Oroville, with the breakage of the spillway at Oroville Dam, I am very happy to congratulate the folks of Kiewit Construction, and so many others, on their reconstruction

of the spillway, phase 1. We will have a working, viable spillway for this upcoming rainy season, if needed, due to the intense and incredible efforts to rebuild that project.

If you had seen the size of, basically, the canyon that was carved out where the old spillway stood from having to release water to keep the lake level, in February, at a safe level, you would see how amazing it was, the work that was done in order to rebuild that spillway in its current phase. It will be able to handle 100,000 CFS and be able to keep the lake stable for the upcoming year.

However, we do need to have balance in the process and have that lake be able to store enough water for California's needs this coming year, because we will still have those needs in 2018, and not drain the lake all the way because of an overcautious thought process.

So congratulations on a viable lake that works for all.

□ 1930

TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour. The Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), is committed to sharing with this Congress, as well as with the American people, the issues of great importance to the Caucus, to Congress, and to the constituents we represent.

For this Special Order hour, at this time, we believe it is very and vitally important to discuss the temporary protective status of Haiti and other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE), to discuss this very important issue.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues at the CBC for the opportunity to speak at this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I traveled to Haiti to investigate sex trafficking, as part of my work on the Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance. While I was there, I had the opportunity to observe conditions as well as meet with leadership and the President.

What I saw was a nation struggling to rebuild after the 2010 tragedy that hurt and rattled the nation with an earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and Hurricane Matthew. What I heard was the nation was not prepared for the tens of thousands of Haitians that were to return.

Haitian TPS recipients contribute significantly to the United States' economy and to the Haitian economy. As Haiti works not only to rebuild, but to rise itself out of poverty that has plagued it for years, I ask the White House to please take a moment to help our friends and allies in Haiti and to extend the temporary protective status.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so very much for her moving words. I know that this is an issue that is very close to her heart, being of Haitian-American descent, and we are grateful for her leadership on this, being supportive of the letters to the President, letters to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for her working in a bipartisan fashion to support the people of Haiti as well as other countries on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus who is leading us in this discussion that is affecting the people of Haiti as well as other countries, along with the President's tax plan and how it would affect those Americans who are the least of us and would have the most repercussions for that.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for leading this Special Order and for the outstanding work that she has done as her island, the U.S. Virgin Islands, recovers from two devastating hurricanes.

Being from New Orleans, I understand what two twin hurricanes can do. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged our city, our State, along with Mississippi, Texas, and the Gulf Coast. To be very candid, the people of the Virgin Islands, unfortunately, are doing this too much on their own.

Part of what makes America exceptional, part of what makes us the greatest country in the world is that when we find our citizens in a vulnerable position, through no fault of their own, we come in as a government and we help. When you look at the Virgin Islands and the fact that the damage they have received is more than their capacity to rebuild, and it is through no fault of their own, it is Mother Nature. It is an act of God.

Some would say it is global warming and climate change, but it doesn't matter what caused it. What matters is the United States' response to how we fix it. So when we start talking about our response to the Virgin Islands, it is a great segue into Haiti and temporary protective status.

It was that 2010 earthquake that rendered Haiti in a position where they could no longer safely and adequately care for their citizens, and we allowed them to have temporary protective status in the United States. On May 24 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than 18 months that the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts from the United States, the Congressional Black Caucus, and others requested.

The fact is, the DHS designation didn't reflect any of the reality on the ground. In fact, it ignored that there is great food scarcity, and it ignored the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented earthquake.

We sent a letter November 3 asking once again to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for another 18 months. However, time and time again, unfortunately, it appears that this administration, through all of the rhetoric, has an inability to do right when right is needed, especially when we talk about vulnerable populations, especially when we talk about immigrants. It is too easy for this administration to turn a blind eye and ignore real-life needs.

Now, there are some out there who could argue: Is this America's issue?

I would argue that it is absolutely America's issue.

First of all, not extending the TPS will have drastic consequences for the United States' economy. That is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, national security experts, and the Catholic bishops have all come out in support of extending this vital program, because they know that these nations are in no condition to receive the 300,000 people that will be returned to them.

They understand the public health crisis and the destabilization of the new government. In El Salvador and Honduras, the return of 250,000 people would strain government services and lead to job displacement in countries besieged by violence, drug trafficking, and weak institutions.

So let me just clear it up for a lot of Americans sitting at home and asking: Well, why does this affect us?

Thirty percent of TPS recipients are homeowners in the United States. So just think about the consequences of simultaneously dumping 60,000 mortgages on the U.S. housing market. Think about 13,000 mortgages in Texas, 5,000 mortgages in Florida, 4,100 in Virginia. The mass deportation alone will cost the taxpayers of this country more than \$3 billion.

Oftentimes, we find ourselves in this place, in this body arguing about the fiscal argument of things and talking about how it would affect our economy—which I just did—talking about how it would hurt the U.S. market in foreclosures and mortgages, and we give all of these examples of how this could bankrupt the United States.

The bigger concern we have, and that this administration should have, is

that this country is on the fast track to moral bankruptcy because we do not stand up when we are supposed to; we don't call out wrong when we see it; and, too often, we turn our backs to injustice. That is not what this country is about. That is not what made this country great. So with that, I would just say that it is time for this country, this Congress, this administration, to do what is right simply because it is the right thing to do.

It just so happens that the right thing to do this time has extreme economic benefits that go along with it. Tonight, you are going to hear from a number of our remarkable Congressional Black Caucus members who don't just advocate for Black people. We advocate for people all across this country who are oftentimes voiceless, who can't afford lobbyists, who don't influence government, but people who just wake up every day, go to work, put food on their table, provide for their kids, and hope for a better future for their families. They hope that their parents can live out their lives with dignity and respect. They hope that their immediate family—that they can provide for their kids, and their kids can reach their wildest dreams.

That is the American Dream. That is what we fight for. It is such a great privilege to be the chair of that Caucus. You will see in the next couple of seconds the talent and the passion of which this Caucus fights for, which is why I am so proud and humbled to lead this Caucus during this Congress.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We are grateful and thankful and proud to have him as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, particularly in the time period that were are in, because the energy and passion that he has for people of color and for all Americans is extremely evident.

The fact that we are not having discussions that are based on emotion, but really based on facts, digging more into policy and the actual effects that those policies have on Americans and throughout this country, is something that is what I think this Congress should be driven by, rather than emotion or visceral reactions to actions that people have that take our eyes off of the things that we should be focused on.

We are grateful that he is continually not moved by the shiny object that is in the room, but on the real bread-and-butter issues that affect Americans. When he talks about the talent of the members of the CBC, part of that talent is in its grounding, in those members of the Congressional Black Caucus that have been engaged in this battle, in this struggle, in this fight, that have had this passion for many years.

I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who has been at the forefront in fighting for people who have been underserved not only in this country, but around the

world. It is through the work of this Member that individuals and countries in Africa have been able to receive the support from this country as this country was trying to pull it away in other parts of the world. We are grateful for her doing it in her own backyard in California, but also in those inner cities throughout this country and rural areas as she sits on the Appropriations Committee to support Americans throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and also for organizing us here tonight and every week on the issues that are so important to this country. Her leadership, specifically, for the Virgin Islands, is truly commendable, and just know that we are doing everything we can do under her leadership to help her recover and rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, I just have to say to our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman RICHMOND, I have to thank him for his bold and his visionary leadership of the CBC.

First, let me just take a moment to offer my deepest condolences to the family, friends, and community of those who lost loved ones in the senseless act of gun violence in Texas, my home State. We mourn their loss, we pray for the recovery of those injured, and we say once again that this House needs action on gun safety measures to save lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with them tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the urgent need to preserve temporary protective status for immigrants fleeing famine, war, and violent conditions around the world, especially those countries from within the African diaspora who account for 10 percent of all TPS beneficiaries.

Today, 440,000 individuals from 10 countries reside in the United States under temporary protective status because, as a nation, we have kept our commitment to being a beacon of hope and security for those in need.

The TPS program grants immigrants the right to lawfully remain in the United States for 6 to 18 months. This longstanding practice has been honored for decades through Democratic and Republican administrations because, regardless of political affiliations as Americans, we have always stood for protecting the value of human life.

Sadly, the Trump administration fails to grasp the lifesaving impact of this program.

□ 1945

Just last month, the administration announced that it would terminate the TPS designation for Sudan, despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region.

In the coming days and weeks, Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration, unfortunately, will decide the fate of TPS holders from vulnerable countries including Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti. Let me be clear: failure to renew TPS status would mean

deportation for over 300,000 individuals who are working and living in the United States.

We also know that this issue disproportionately impacts immigrants from countries within the African diaspora. Take Haiti for example. After a devastating earthquake and horrific hurricane, there is an active cholera outbreak and protracted food security crisis. Letting TPS expire for this country would send 50,000 people back to uncertain fates. An influx of people of this size would further destabilize a fragile recovery. That is why I joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Department of Homeland Security calling for a full 18-month extension of Haiti's TPS designation.

In El Salvador and Honduras, the return of over 250,000 people would strain government services and lead to job displacement in countries besieged by violence, narcotics trafficking, and weak institutions.

Unfortunately, this week, Secretary Tillerson falsely claimed that conditions on the ground no longer warrant TPS designation for these countries. How he came up with that, I have no idea. This is really a shame and a disgrace. That is why members of the Congressional Black Caucus are here tonight fighting for temporary protected status because we cannot turn our backs on our brothers and sisters in their time of need. TPS holders have families, they own businesses, and they contribute to this country in countless ways.

At a time when devastating hurricanes and flooding ravages our neighbors in the Caribbean, the last thing that our government should be doing is turning its back on TPS holders. It is not only TPS holders that we are fighting for. We are also now recognizing, understanding, knowing, and making public—as everyone knows—that millions of undocumented youth are living in fear of deportation because this President and Republicans in Congress can't muster the courage to do what is right.

Our Nation has been and should continue to be a nation of immigrants. From TPS to DACA, deporting innocent young people who came to the United States to escape devastation and violence, or as a child, is not only wrong, it is really cruel, and it is heartless. So that is why we will continue to fight to protect undocumented youth as we work towards comprehensive immigration reform once and for all.

Now we are going to say we are going to continue to fight to make sure temporary protective status is granted for the 300,000 immigrants. I want to thank Delegate PLASKETT for helping us to, once again, raise our voices, educate the public, and stay woke.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as we give condolences to those individuals in Texas, of course, we would be remiss not to give condolences out to our colleague and one of the former chairs of

the Congressional Black Caucus, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who has lost one of her siblings. We just want her to know that our prayers are with her and with her family as they grieve, and we are there for the gentlewoman throughout this mourning process and however she may need us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE). The gentlewoman is my dear sister. She is a tireless champion of the issues of Caribbean people throughout the United States and throughout the world. Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE is not just from New York, but, in particular, Brooklyn. She knows how that is very dear to me having been a child of Brooklyn myself.

Congresswoman CLARKE's work and all the efforts she has made in being one of the co-chairs of the Caribbean Caucus, being the member at large of the Congressional Black Caucus, the work that the gentlewoman is doing, and she has really forged a partnership with the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus as well as MIA LOVE to make sure that the issue regarding Haiti, regarding the Haitians, and the temporary protected status are here. It is because of the gentlewoman's work that we are now having the Special Order hour and are continuing to push the pressure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman to discuss with us, with the American people, with this Congress, and with the Speaker how we should be moving forward with the issues regarding the people of Haiti and how extending the temporary protected status is not only good for the Haitian economy, it is good for America as well.

I thank the gentlewoman for leading us in this effort.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands for her leadership on this matter, serving as co-chair for the Caribbean Caucus, and being an outspoken advocate and fighter on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands who are still reeling from the two hurricanes that wreaked havoc on the three islands of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I want to thank the gentlewoman for organizing us this evening and really moderating what we all have to say here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for the more than 300,000 temporary protected status beneficiaries who are under attack from this administration.

Temporary protected status was signed into law with bipartisan support by President George H. W. Bush as part of the Immigration Act of 1990. Since then, it has been used in roughly equal numbers by Democratic and Republican Presidents alike. This program is based on a simple idea that we can all agree upon: the idea that it is immoral to send someone back to a country suffering from famine, disease, war, or governmental collapse where they could reasonably expect to perish.

Today, instead, we, as a society, decided long ago as a humanitarian gesture to extend ourselves as a safe haven and to temporarily allow such people the ability to lawfully remain in the United States for up to 18 months at a time and seek gainful employment as conditions in their home countries would improve.

This is not citizenship, and this is not amnesty. Rather, it is a way of protecting human life while allowing eligible individuals from Haiti, Yemen, Honduras, Nicaragua, and numerous other countries across the world to earn wages for themselves and their loved ones abroad. Unfortunately, this administration's antipathy toward immigrants—particularly immigrants of color—has found its way to some of the most vulnerable amongst us and threatens the existence of this commonsense program rooted in human decency and respect for life.

This program of agreement is now being totally undermined with real lives hanging in the balance. For example, while it would seem obvious to extend Haiti's temporary protected status in light of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake, subsequent cholera epidemic, food insecurity crisis, and the damage inflicted by Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria, this administration only extended Haiti's status for 6 months in the month of May, while, at the same time, the administration insinuated that Haitian TPS recipients were criminals.

The administration now appears ready to ignore the advice of Haiti experts in the United States and the request of the Haitian Ambassador by forcing some 50,000 Haitians to subject themselves to life-threatening conditions in Haiti. This would not just be tragic for those forced to return, it would also be detrimental to Haiti's economy which benefits significantly from the hard-earned remittances that Haitian TPS beneficiaries send back to their loved ones. It is also no way to treat a neighbor that is located less than a 2-hour flight away from American soil, the most impoverished nation of the Western Hemisphere. Indeed, such a decision would be cruel and unusual punishment.

For this reason, I have worked with Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in sending a letter to Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke, signed by the entire Congressional Black Caucus, requesting a full 18-month extension of Haiti's TPS status. I also asked that Acting Secretary Duke take the Haitian Ambassador up on his invitation to visit Haiti and to see the conditions for herself.

However, Haiti is not the only country that clearly merits an extension. Nearly 60,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans currently await news of their fate, as will thousands of other immigrants from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

While I hope that Acting Secretary Duke will do the right thing and make an evidence-based decision in light of the human cost to her actions, our experience teaches us that we must also prepare for the worst.

Where this administration refuses to respect decades of bipartisan agreement, Congress must assert its constitutional powers and act to safeguard human life and American interests. I, therefore, call upon my congressional colleagues to come together and pass bipartisan legislation that will protect the hundreds of thousands of TPS beneficiaries from around the world—Black, brown, Asian and other—who are, at this moment, relying upon us for their very lives.

Although we live in times of great division, now is the moment to come together and recommit to the basic values that unite us all. This country was founded upon the idea of human dignity, and TPS is yet another test of whether we will be true to that idea or fall painfully short. We must not fall short, but instead we must rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, TPS is something that falls within our purview to address. It is my sincere hope that we will address this impending crisis.

When I think about Haitians who are living here, many who, at this stage, had children born in the United States, and many who are here during the most productive time of their lives when they can work because of their strength, their ability, and their intellect, it would be a travesty to begin separating families and to wrench from these individuals the opportunity to add value to our civil society while undergirding the nation of their birth, the nation that many hope to return to at the appropriate time by summarily excusing them from our civil society.

Having said that, I, too, stand with my colleagues to extend on behalf of Chairman RICHMOND, the executive officers, and members of the CBC a heartfelt condolence in this season of bereavement to our dear colleague, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, on the loss of her sister. She remains in our prayers at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, once again, for her leadership.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for the insight she has given us into the conditions not only in Haiti but the responsibility we have as Americans to our near neighbor, to a neighbor which supported us during our own Revolution, and who was there for us at the inception of the United States.

Haiti has been ravaged by so many natural disasters, and the benefit that we are receiving and the benefit that so much of Haiti is receiving from those individuals who are really industrious people here in the United States is just bar none.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Newark, New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. DONALD PAYNE has worked tirelessly on behalf of so many people throughout the world as he sits on the Committees of Homeland Security as well as Transportation and Infrastructure where he works on issues related to developing and building. It has oversight in homeland security and over the issues that affect us.

I am sure Congressman PAYNE has particular insight into how this temporary protected status would affect the people of Haiti and what it means to the security of this country to allow that temporary protected status to be continued from the gentleman's perch on the Committee on Homeland Security.

□ 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for her leadership on these issues. Right now, her focus has been on helping her country come to grips with the devastating hurricanes that have struck all the islands of the American Virgin Islands, and she has demonstrated great leadership in that endeavor.

Also, on the whole issue around TPS, Ms. PLASKETT and Ms. CLARKE have been our true leaders in the diaspora around these issues, whether it be the Caribbean or back to the Continent of Africa. I just want to acknowledge their great work on all of these issues and also thank the gentlewoman for hosting tonight's Special Order hour on protecting TPS recipients.

Before I start on the topic at hand, I would like to send my condolences out to the loved ones of the 26 people tragically murdered and the 21 people injured in yesterday's mass shooting in Texas.

When will we realize that something must be done in this country?

I have to ask: How much blood must be shed before Congress acts on gun control?

It has been 10 years since Congress has passed a gun control law. Since then, more than 300,000 people have been killed by guns in this country. More than 100,000 of those deaths were homicides. The American people deserve better—much better.

As the news cycle moves from one tragedy to another, we have not forgotten, and must not forget, that the citizens that Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT and Congresswoman JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico represent are still recovering from this summer's hurricanes. They, too, deserve swift action to help them recover from these devastating storms.

That, Mr. Speaker, brings me to the topic of tonight's Special Order hour. I want to start by dispelling the myth that the temporary protected status designation poses a threat to America's security. The truth is that TPS holders are rigorously vetted before entering the country, and they go through stringent background checks before each TPS renewal.

Mr. Speaker, the TPS designation is a part of our national character, and it must be protected.

What do I mean by that?

We are a compassionate people, aren't we—a compassionate nation?

The Americans I know are proud to live in a country that is free and prosperous enough to extend a helping hand to those in need. The TPS designation does just that.

TPS is a helping hand that reaches out past our national borders to lift people out of the depths of despair brought on by natural disaster, violence, or turmoil. Yet the administration is reportedly planning to remove the TPS designation for nationals of several Latin American and Caribbean countries. This is really bad news for the United States.

First, ending the TPS designation for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will destabilize communities in the United States proper. TPS holders own small businesses. They pay taxes. They take out mortgages. They fill jobs that we rely on every day in construction; hospitality; restaurants; landscaping; and elder care, in particular.

Ending TPS designations mean ripping people out of their communities and local economies. Businesses will shutter. Essential jobs, like disaster cleanup, will go unfilled. The national economy will suffer a \$164 billion loss in gross domestic product.

Without TPS holders from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras, New Jersey will lose \$864 million from its GDP. My State cannot handle that burden.

Second, ending TPS designations for Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will tear apart families of color. Many TPS holders have lawfully lived in the United States for more than a decade. They have established their families here. They are parents to 270,000 U.S. citizens. In New Jersey, 8,800 U.S. citizens were born to TPS holders from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Forcing TPS holders to leave the country means forcing them to leave their families. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens will have to say goodbye to their parents and grandparents. People will be forced to return to countries that are still suffering from the problems that led them to the TPS designation in the first place.

Third, removing the TPS designation for nationals from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will threaten security throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These small countries are still suffering from disasters, public health crises, and political instability.

The sudden influx of 300,000 additional people has the potential to destabilize national governments and threaten security throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, in 2015, 2016, and 2017, I led the effort to get the TPS designation for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. These countries were reeling from public health and infrastructure

emergencies. They faced an existential threat from the Ebola virus, and the American people lent a helping hand by giving them temporary protected status. I have had no doubt that authorizing nationals from those West African countries to enter the United States saved lives; no doubt whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon our national character to the cynical call of “America first.” The TPS designation does not weaken us. It strengthens us by showing the world that the United States is morally worthy of its status as a superpower.

Rolling back the TPS program is bad policy, it is bad politics, and it is immoral. If the United States turns its back on those in need, what have we the people become?

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentleman for the information that he has shared with us, and, more particularly, for causing us to reflect on who we are as Americans and what we stand for, and for reminding this Congress and this House how we have a responsibility to those in need, and that with greatness comes responsibility. Too whom much is given, much is required. That requirement goes particularly to our neighbors. We know that Haiti is, in fact, our neighbor. We have a responsibility to be there for them.

I thank the gentleman for all that he is doing and how often he is here for the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour to give us information and give us time to reflect. I am extremely appreciative of that. I thank the gentleman so much for all that he does for the Congressional Black Caucus, for his steady reliability in being there to support the issues that are important to the Caucus and to all of us as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). The gentlewoman has 20 minutes remaining.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS). She may be new to this Congress—this is her first term, as a freshman—but she is not new to supporting issues that are important to the American people. In her time in Florida, having served as a public servant on the front lines for all of us and now here in the Congress, she is continuing that work.

From her position on Homeland Security and particularly to border and maritime security, this is an issue that she has great insight into. I know that she has a large number of Haitians in her own community and recognize the productivity that they provide, the stability that they provide in the community, how embedded they are in that community.

We are grateful for the gentlewoman being here in part of this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on the issue of temporary protected status for all countries—there are 30 countries

and 300,000 individuals that have that—but, in particular, to the 50,000 Haitians who are living in this country during this time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Virgin Islands for her leadership on this issue and for making it a priority and giving it the urgency that those under TPS status deserve.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, of course, I want to extend my condolences to the families whose loved ones were murdered in Sutherland Springs, Texas, while attending worship service.

I also extend my condolences to my colleague from Texas, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who is mourning the death of her sister.

Mr. Speaker, after college—it was a lot of years ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday—I worked as a social worker, working with families in need of emergency services, in need of shelter, in need of food, and in need of medical care. I also worked with foster care children.

Mr. Speaker, you may know that I also spent over 20 years as a law enforcement officer. As such, the preservation of human life was my number one priority. Saving lives was first. But then we also wanted to improve the quality of life for persons living and working in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of life matters also. That is what we are here to talk about tonight as Members of Congress: improving the quality of life for families who desperately need our help.

Approximately 50,000 Haitians hold TPS status, and 32,500 of them live in Florida. 18,800 U.S.-born children in Florida have Haitian parents who are TPS holders.

How did we get here, Mr. Speaker?

As you know, an earthquake—not planned, not expected—left thousands dead and resulted in the total collapse of Port-au-Prince’s infrastructure. A few years before the earthquake, I participated in a mission trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. We worked with children and families from a local church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. That church was totally destroyed by the earthquake.

The earthquake displaced 1.5 million Haitians within their own country, destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and damaged nearly 200,000 more. The number of schools that were destroyed in Port-au-Prince alone is unbelievable. Over 55,000 Haitians who lost their homes in the earthquake are still living in 31 camps for internally displaced persons, unable to leave.

We are here tonight to talk about improving the quality of life for persons, for families, who desperately need our help.

□ 2015

This crisis is not over. In April of this year, heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. According to the Haitian officials, an estimated 80 percent of spring harvest may have been destroyed.

This crisis is not over. Since September of 2016, damage from Hurricane Matthew and recent rains have compounded food insecurity experienced by an estimated 3.2 million people in Haiti, not to mention the devastation caused by Irma and Hurricane Maria. Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis that already existed, placing 2.4 million Haitians, 32 percent of the population, in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis.

Mr. Speaker, forcing the return of 50,000 people to Haiti would disrupt any meaningful effort to recover. As you know, in May, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti. DHS’ decision, obviously, did not reflect the reality on the ground.

Regardless of how you might feel about the policy, TPS holders are perhaps the most vetted, legally present, and work-authorized community in our country. They have submitted to numerous criminal background checks every 18 months. Americans with temporary protective status are hard-working individuals who are contributing to our economy, our communities, and our industries. Just check the numbers.

Mr. Speaker, the only strategic and humane decision is to fully extend Haiti’s TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline. Working to improve the quality of life for families who desperately need our help, that is the promise of America, and I pray that America keeps its promise.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. DEMINGS so much for that heartfelt appeal to the better senses of us, to the better angels within us as Americans, but, also, just speaking practicably about what this policy does not only for Haiti, but for us as Americans.

You know, you hear stories about most people, how this affects them. We hear the larger numbers: 50,000 individuals from Haiti, 300,000 individual groupings from all other countries. We found out, a report just came out, that Nicaragua will only have 12 additional months for temporary protective status, while the conditions in Nicaragua have not changed.

I heard a story about a woman, Joana Desir, one of the Haitians. On a recent day in Manhattan, the 32-year-old home healthcare provider races in between patients. By midday, she has already helped transport one of her regular patients, a young girl with severe respiratory disease, to school and visited two senior patients in their home. It is a hard job, but she says it is rewarding.

“Most of the immigrants that I know, they have a busy life like me,” she says. “I leave home like 5:45 a.m. and sometimes get home by like 9 p.m.”

Joana came to the U.S. in 2018 and was still in the U.S. when a powerful

earthquake struck Haiti in 2010. Hundreds of thousands were killed, and the Obama administration granted Haitians temporary protective status. They were shielded from deportation and given work permits.

Critics say the temporary program for Haiti and others where disasters and wars took place decades ago has become permanent and amounts to a backdoor immigration policy. However, what we need to understand is what is still going on in Haiti right now.

Why this also makes sense for us is that it is estimated by the think tank Inter-American Dialogue that all Haitians abroad this year—this year alone, Mr. Speaker—will send home \$2 billion in remittances to that country. That is nearly equal to Haiti's annual operating budget, that \$2 billion. The money that the Haitians that are living in the United States and sending back home is keeping that economy afloat. Without the money that the Haitians in the United States, in America, are providing, there would be a complete collapse in the country of Haiti, which would then create additional cataclysmic work that we, as Americans, would need.

We talk about immigrants trying to come into this country. We talk about the collapse of infrastructure, the collapse of an economy that will happen if the Haitians who are still living here in the United States under temporary protective status with jobs are caused to leave.

On May 24, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than the full 18 months. It is important to understand that, because of that smaller amount of time, Haitians still have to apply. It costs almost \$2,000 to apply for an extension of a visa. These people are in flux as to whether or not they should continue to apply.

In a letter sent on Friday, November 3, the Congressional Black Caucus urged the Department of Homeland Security once again to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline in light of the aforementioned conditions in Haiti, as well as the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has exacerbated these conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD that letter from the Congressional Black Caucus for others to see.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS,
November 3, 2017.

Hon. ELAINE C. DUKE,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ACTING SECRETARY DUKE: On May 24, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of Temporary Protected Status, rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts in the United States, the Congressional Black Caucus, and others. This decision was against the weight of the facts on the ground, which included Haiti's food scarcity crisis, cholera epidemic, and

the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented 2010 earthquake. We write again to encourage DHS to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline in light of the clear conditions that justify such continued treatment, including the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has exacerbated these conditions.

As recently as October 4, 2017, the Haitian Ambassador to the United States wrote to you to formally request a full 18-month re-designation in light of the ongoing economic and humanitarian conditions that Haiti's citizens face each day. In that letter, the Ambassador explicitly stated that the goal of this request was to allow Haiti to recover from the effects of the earthquake, cholera epidemic, and Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria so as to continue with Haiti's recovery efforts and to become more independent of American assistance in the long term. The Ambassador also graciously invited you to visit Haiti and see such conditions for yourself. A government does not undertake such action lightly and this request should merit considerable weight.

A recent independent statutory analysis of Haiti's qualification for TPS confirmed the validity of the government's concerns, finding that the conditions that justified Haiti's 2011 re-designation remain. The analysis found that nearly 40,000 Haitians uprooted by the 2010 earthquake are officially displaced and that many more likely remain unofficially displaced in dangerously inadequate shelters. The cholera epidemic that was tragically caused by international efforts to aid Haiti in 2010 more than doubled following Hurricane Matthew and is expected to directly affect more than 30,000 people by the end of 2017. Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians—22 percent of its population—in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis. Based on these clear facts, the analysis rightfully concluded that it is in the best interest of Haiti and the United States to re-designate Haiti for another 18 months of TPS because it continues to face extraordinary and temporary conditions stemming from the 2010 earthquake and worsened by subsequent events that justify such relief.

Despite these serious challenges, the Haitian government has been working diligently for years to improve its economy, public health conditions, and infrastructure in coordination with the United States government and international community. In order to accomplish this task, Haiti relies in large part on remittances that its citizens receive from TPS beneficiaries in the United States. Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold. It would end essential remittances that significantly contribute to Haiti's recovery while also forcing the poorest republic in the Western Hemisphere to absorb the cost of reintegrating thousands of citizens all at once. Such actions could be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to Congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently-passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (Public Law 114-291).

Finally, it is essential to note that Haitian TPS beneficiaries directly contribute to the United States. They pay taxes, spend money, contribute to Social Security and Medicare, and help promote American prosperity in numerous sectors, such as the restaurant and food service, construction, and hospitality industries. About 30 percent of TPS beneficiaries are homeowners, stimulating the real estate industry and contributing to the local property tax base. Also, one in nine

TPS beneficiaries in the labor force is self-employed, meaning they not only create jobs for themselves, but likely create jobs for others. A recent report found “that the expiration of Haitian TPS would cost America \$2.8 billion over a decade in lost gross domestic product.”

For these reasons, we urge you in the strongest terms to take advantage of the full amount of time granted by Congress to study the conditions on the ground and reach the only appropriate decision—a full 18-month re-designation of Haiti's TPS designation.

Sincerely,

Cedric L. Richmond, Chair, Congressional Black Caucus; Yvette D. Clarke, Chair, CBC Immigration Working Group; Cory Booker, U.S. Senator; Kamala D. Harris, U.S. Senator; John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress; John Lewis, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Maxine Waters, Member of Congress; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Member of Congress; James E. Clyburn, Member of Congress; Alcee L. Hastings, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; Bobby L. Rush, Member of Congress; Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Member of Congress; Bennie G. Thompson, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress; Elijah E. Cummings, Member of Congress.

Danny K. Davis, Member of Congress; Gregory W. Meeks, Member of Congress; Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr., Member of Congress; David Scott, Member of Congress; G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress; Emanuel Cleaver II, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Gwen S. Moore, Member of Congress; Keith Ellison, Member of Congress; Hank Johnson, Member of Congress; Andre Carson, Member of Congress; Marcia L. Fudge, Member of Congress; Karen Bass, Member of Congress; Terri A. Sewell, Member of Congress; Frederica Wilson, Member of Congress; Donald M. Payne, Jr., Member of Congress.

Joyce Beatty, Member of Congress; Hakeem Jeffries, Member of Congress; Marc Veasey, Member of Congress; Robin Kelly, Member of Congress; Alma Adams, Member of Congress; Brenda Lawrence, Member of Congress; Mia Love, Member of Congress; Stacey Plaskett, Member of Congress; Bonnie Watson Coleman, Member of Congress; Dwight Evans, Member of Congress; Lisa Blunt Rochester, Member of Congress; Anthony Brown, Member of Congress; Val Butler Demings, Member of Congress; Al Lawson, Member of Congress; A. Donald McEachin, Member of Congress.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, in that letter, which is signed by all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who are members in both the Democratic as well as Republican caucus, Members in the House as well as the Senate, we urge Secretary Duke that the Ambassador to Haiti has explicitly stated that the goal of the request was to allow Haiti to recover from the effects of the earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria.

Matthew struck Haiti in 2016 of last year. Of course you are aware of Irma and Maria. We Americans, unbeknownst to ourselves and the work

that we have done, also exacerbated food insecurity in Haiti by placing individuals, causing the cholera epidemic that is there. Unbeknownst to ourselves, when we came there to give support to Haiti, we Americans brought the cholera epidemic that is now ravaging Haiti and has taken about 10,000 people.

Additionally, Hurricane Matthew exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians, 22 percent of the population, in the grips of an acute food security crisis.

I have many Haitians who are in my community in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and we count them as some of our hardest workers, and we recognize the impact that sending so many of these people back would have not only on the loss of jobs here and the work that those individuals are doing in the United States, but on the economy of Haiti itself.

There is no infrastructure that will support the 50,000 people going back to Haiti at this time, and that economy will probably completely collapse without the remittances that the Haitians who are living in the United States would be able to bring to that country.

Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold: such actions would be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, Public Law 114-291.

So the 300,000 Honduran, Nicaraguan, Haitian, and Salvadoran immigrants await a mass deportation decision on temporary protective status, and we are requesting—we are urging, Mr. Speaker—that this Congress would continue to urge the Department of Homeland Security, and use our own powers, to ensure the safety of those individuals, ensure the safety of the stability of the economies of our near neighbors, of Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador, and urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for their protections not to expire and not to put these people into difficult choices of returning to countries that still face many of the same extraordinary conditions that led to the initial grant of TPS or remaining in the United States without lawful immigrant status.

We believe that this is the right thing to do, that this Congress wants to do the right thing, that the Trump administration's 2018 proposed budget cut, budget request to Congress, for example, proposes to reduce foreign aid to Latin America and the Caribbean to levels not seen since 2001. Because of that, the remittances of these individuals is even more important. Remittances from the United States to El Salvador equal \$4 billion; Honduras, \$3.3 billion; to Haiti, almost \$2 billion. Using GDP estimates from the World Bank, remittances make up more than

15 percent of the GDP for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti.

Therefore, if we are going to reduce the budget in terms of foreign aid to these countries, it is important that we do not allow the collapse of these countries. It will not only bring economic collapse, but we know it is very likely to bring political anarchy and political disruption, as well, to countries that are instable as they are, countries where we are looking to bring stable democratic governments. Ensuring that individuals are allowed to stay here in this country and provide those remittances, provide the support that is necessary to grow those economies, embed democratic ideals, will be most beneficial to us and to ensure the stability of the Western Hemisphere at this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an imperative that is important to this country, imperative to the United States, and we are grateful that we have had this time to share this information with you, with the American people, with this Congress. We are urging our colleagues, urging Members of this Congress, to work with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, individuals you have heard tonight, MIA LOVE, CEDRIC RICHMOND, YVETTE CLARKE, DONALD PAYNE, VAL DEMINGS, BARBARA LEE, all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others who urge that this support be enacted not only by the Department of Homeland Security, but by this Congress.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee, I rise today to express my strong objection to the announced intention by the Trump Administration not to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti, Honduras, and El Salvador.

On May 24, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) re-designated Haiti for 6 months of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts in the United States, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among others.

DHS' decision did not reflect the realities on the ground in Haiti, which include Haiti's food scarcity crisis, cholera epidemic, and the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented 2010 earthquake.

In a letter sent this past Friday, November 3, 2017, the Congressional Black Caucus urged DHS, once again, to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23, 2017 deadline in light of the aforementioned conditions in Haiti, as well as the exacerbated damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In a report published in October 2017, the highly regarded Global Justice Clinic concluded that conditions justifying Haiti's qualification for TPS in 2011 remain as acute today as they were then.

The study also found that 40,000 Haitians uprooted by the 2010 earthquake are officially displaced and that many more likely remain unofficially displaced in dangerously inadequate shelters.

The cholera epidemic that was tragically caused by international efforts to aid Haiti in 2010 more than doubled following Hurricane Matthew and is expected to directly affect more than 30,000 people by the end of 2017.

Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians—22 percent of its population—in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis.

The Haitian government has been working diligently for years to improve its economy, public health conditions, and infrastructure in coordination with the United States government and international community.

In order to accomplish this task, Haiti relies in large part on remittances that its citizens receive from TPS beneficiaries in the United States.

Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold.

It would end essential remittances that significantly contribute to Haiti's recovery while also forcing the poorest republic in the Western Hemisphere to absorb the cost of reintegrating thousands of citizens all at once.

Such actions could be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to Congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently-passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (Public Law 114-291).

Finally, it is essential to note that Haitian TPS beneficiaries directly contribute to the United States.

They pay taxes, spend money, contribute to Social Security and Medicare, and help promote American prosperity in numerous sectors, such as the restaurant and food service, construction, and hospitality industries.

About 30 percent of TPS beneficiaries are homeowners, stimulating the real estate industry and contributing to the local property tax base.

Also, one in nine TPS beneficiaries in the labor force is self-employed, meaning they not only create jobs for themselves, but also create jobs for others.

A recent report found that the expiration of Haitian TPS would cost the United States economy more \$2.8 billion over a decade in lost gross domestic product.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be both smart and compassionate when it comes to extending TPS for Haiti.

The compassionate thing to do is extend TPS for Haiti.

But just as important, extending TPS for Haiti is the smart thing to do because it strengthens the American economy and advances the national interests of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus in drawing attention to the Republican Leadership's latest plan to hurt the American taxpayers, especially those who did not support the President during the election.

The Republican tax cut would result in the biggest increase in the deficit by any President in the history of the United States, likely growing it by the annual sum of \$1 trillion from now on.

Some may wonder if the President would stoop to punishing people because they did not vote for him—I would point them to the Republican Tax Proposal and say the answer is found in the 429 pages of H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Americans who send their children to private school will be able to do so—at the expense of taxpayers who send their children to public schools courtesy of the Republican tax cut plan.

The Republican Tax plan amends Title 26 of the United States Code § 529 that deals with Qualified tuition programs.

The Code was intended to encourage persons to attain higher education and provide incentives for persons who pursue doctorates.

Most people know that going back to school to obtain a degree is a difficult choice to make with full time jobs and family obligations.

Having a degree can substantially increase income and provide choices that would otherwise be unattainable to the recipient of advanced degrees.

The benefit to the economy and our nation's leadership in the sciences rests with the number of people who attain undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Republicans have gone into this section 529 of the tax code and extended the tax write-offs to those sending their children to K–12 private schools.

Other ways the Republican Tax bill hurts taxpayers who pursue college educations for themselves or their children.

Repeal of Lifetime Learning Credit;

Repeal of the Student Loan Interest Deduction;

Repeal of the qualified tuition reduction;

Repeal of educational assistance program;

Termination of private activity bonds; and,

Creation of a new excise tax on endowments at private colleges and universities.

The Republican leadership of the House is also causing problems for private sector investments in Colleges and Universities.

The tax bill threatens tax write offs for donations to colleges and universities and will limit tax credits associated with university-industry partnerships.

The Republicans claim that their Child Tax Credit proposal would help working families, but it simply does not do enough.

The House tax plan proposes a nonrefundable \$600 increase in the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and would make more families earning six figures eligible to claim the CTC.

This proposal wouldn't help the women who need it most.

In addition, whatever benefits this CTC proposal would provide pales in comparison to those that would be received by the wealthy and corporations under this tax plan.

The bill cuts taxes for major corporations who already pay far less than their fair share.

Republicans claim that economic growth will more than pay for the lost revenue but we've tried this before.

When trickle-down economics fails again and this bill explodes the nation's deficit, Republicans will call for huge spending cuts to critical programs that hardworking Americans depend on to make ends meet.

The plan's negative impact on the Lone Star state would be particularly hard.

Independent analyses show the Republican plan would actually raise taxes on about 1.5 million Texas households, or 12.4 percent of households next year.

On average, families earning up to \$86,000 annually would see a \$794.00 increase in their tax liability, a significant burden on families struggling to afford child care and balance their checkbook.

According to the IRS, 23 percent of tax filers, or 2.8 million Texas households, deduct their state and local taxes with an average deduction of \$7,823 in 2015.

The Ryan-McConnell plan eliminates this deduction, which would lower home values and put pressure on states and towns to collect revenues they depend on to fund schools, roads, and vital public resources.

Placing further strains on middle-class Texans is the elimination of the personal exemption, which deducts \$4,050 for each taxpayer and dependent on a return from taxable income.

In 2015, roughly 9.3 million dependent exemptions were claimed in the Lone Star State.

The GOP's reckless and irresponsible tax plan is made all the more obscene by its disproportionate and immoral handouts to the wealthy few.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, millionaires in Texas, 0.31 percent of filers in 2015 would receive almost 57 percent of the benefits from the tax plan.

Texans deserve a tax plan that puts working and middle class families first, not more deficit-expanding tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

We need bipartisan tax reform that creates jobs, fuels economic growth, and puts more money into the pockets of hard-working American families.

A recent Pew Research Center report found little support for cutting taxes for high-income households, which is defined as more than \$250,000 or large businesses and corporations.

In fact, 43 percent favored raising taxes on high-income households and 52 percent said corporate taxes should be raised.

The Republicans persist with their scheme of raising taxes on hard-working middle class families to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

It is reckless to explode our deficit which according to the Tax Policy Center, would skyrocket by \$2.4 trillion over the first decade.

The wealthy must pay their fair share, but the GOP tax scheme offers them a free lunch at the expense of those who are most in need of a helping hand.

The power of the purse rests with the House of Representatives and it is our job to make sure that the American People are treated fairly.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UPTON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for November 2 through today on account of a family commitment.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 7.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 9 on account of death in family.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3084. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Restrictions on Qualified Financial Contracts of Certain FDIC-Supervised Institutions; Revisions to the Definition of Qualifying Master Netting Agreement and Related Definitions (RIN: 3064-AE46) received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3085. A letter from the Acting Administrator, MFH Portfolio Management Division, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Multi-Family Housing Program Requirements to Reduce Financial Reporting Requirements (RIN: 0575-AC98) received October 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3086. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Rules for Open Burning and Incinerators [EPA-R01-OAR-2017-0138; FRL-9970-41-Region 1] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3087. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Continuous Opacity Monitoring Requirements for Municipal Waste Combustors [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0484; FRL-9970-28-Region 3] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3088. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Benzovindiflupyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0448; FRL-9967-33] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3089. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Formaldehyde, polymer with 1,3-benzenediol, 2-methyloxirane and oxirane, ethers with polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0362; FRL-9969-99] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3090. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Formaldehyde, polymer with 1,3-benzenediol, ethers with polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether; Exemption

from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0363; FRL-9970-00] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3091. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations received October 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3092. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 22-170, "Standard of Care for Animals Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3093. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference Amendments [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0798; Amendment No.: 71-49] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3094. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0243; Product Identifier 2016-NM-045-AD; Amendment 39-19069; AD 2017-20-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3095. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Restricted Area R-2603; Fort Carson, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8927; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-24] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3096. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3004A and R-3004B and Establishment of R-3004C; Fort Gordon, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0886; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-11] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3097. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace and Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Kaunakakai, HI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0295; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWP-2] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3098. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Augusta, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9274; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASW-18] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3099. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Redmond, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0390; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-11] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3100. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Battle Creek, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0232; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-11] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3101. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31155; Amdt. No.: 3766] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3102. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Battle Creek, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0232; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-11] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3103. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Elizabeth City, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2016-0384; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ASO-14] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3104. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Evansville, IN [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9540; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AGL-27] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3105. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sunriver, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0617; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-27] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3106. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Picayune, MS [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0320; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ASO-12] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3107. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hattiesburg, MS [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0321; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ASO-11] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3108. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Big Timber, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0392; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ANM-4] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3109. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Medford, WI and Waupaca, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0388; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-13] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3110. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Onida, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9546; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AGL-32] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3111. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hebron, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0175; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ACE-2] received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3112. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; CY 2018 Updates to the Quality Payment Program; and Quality Payment Program: Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstance Policy for the Transition Year [CMS-5522-FC and IFC] (RIN: 0938-AT13) received November 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3113. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2018 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update and CY 2019 Case-Mix Adjustment Methodology Refinements; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model; and Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements [CMS-1672-F] (RIN: 0938-AT01) received November 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3122. A bill to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of

need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 115-385). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3562. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adoptions of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-386). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3656. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable; with an amendment (Rept. 115-387). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3657. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries; with amendments (Rept. 115-388). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1066. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-389). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 918. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental health care to certain former members of the Armed Forces who are not otherwise eligible to receive such care, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-390). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 607. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3441) to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (Rept. 115-391). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2148. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify capital requirements for certain acquisition, development, or construction loans; with amendments (Rept. 115-392). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KNIGHT (for himself, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 4254. A bill to amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to strengthen the aerospace workforce

pipeline by the promotion of Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and National Aeronautics and Space Administration internship and fellowship opportunities to women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 4255. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 4256. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 4257. A bill to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 4258. A bill to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4259. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for naloxone rescue kits in public libraries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. McEACHIN):

H.R. 4260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4261. A bill to improve public safety, accountability, transparency, and respect for federalism in Federal criminal law by applying evidence-based reforms already made by some States, and reinvesting the resulting savings from doing so in additional evidence-based criminal justice strategies that are proven to reduce recidivism and crime, and the burden of the criminal justice system on the taxpayer; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 4262. A bill to authorize members and former members of the uniformed services who are entitled to veterans disability compensation to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan through the deduction

and deposit of a percentage of their veterans disability compensation to the Thrift Savings Fund; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

144. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 73, to memorialize the United States Congress to do all it can to support atomic veterans, their spouses, and dependents in receiving medical care and disability compensation; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KNIGHT:

H.R. 4254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 4255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 related to the Congress' authority to lay and collect taxes

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 4257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Tenth Amendment, United States Constitution

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Section 8

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 4260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To Make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:
H.R. 4261.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WALKER:
H.R. 4262.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 66: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 113: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 173: Ms. MENG, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 176: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 233: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 392: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. VELA, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. DUNN.
H.R. 432: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 444: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 459: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 545: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 564: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 747: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 754: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 785: Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 788: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 792: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 801: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 828: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 904: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 908: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 918: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1057: Mr. HECK, Mr. GIANFORTE, and Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 1098: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1100: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1143: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1148: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1164: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1178: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 1200: Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 1243: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1276: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1279: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1374: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1380: Mr. HECK and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 1406: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1456: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1552: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1592: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1606: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1661: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1675: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1676: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. BLUNT

ROCHESTER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SIRE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1733: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1784: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1861: Mr. HURD and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1865: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1896: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1943: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 1953: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1976: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 2092: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 2123: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. MESSER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 2180: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2198: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2320: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 2340: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2345: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 2366: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2452: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2601: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 2643: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2790: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 2862: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 3030: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 3079: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3117: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 3127: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3128: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3222: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3254: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3316: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3320: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3380: Mr. POCAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3391: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 3497: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 3596: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 3634: Mr. MESSER and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3642: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3705: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 3831: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3832: Mrs. HANDEL.
H.R. 3848: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3854: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3881: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3887: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. OLSON and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3897: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. HANDEL, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. ARRINGTON, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3949: Ms. SINEMA and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3966: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 3989: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 3997: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 4007: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4022: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsyl-

vania, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4030: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4044: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4067: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4073: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 4082: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4114: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4120: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 4121: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4131: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4143: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BARR, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Ms. ESTY of Connecticut.
H.R. 4173: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 4184: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4187: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4198: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GALLEGÓ, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. SABLÁN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4239: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4240: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GALLEGÓ, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. ESHOO, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 4243: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4250: Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 4253: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.J. Res. 53: Mr. PANETTA.
H. Con. Res. 80: Mrs. WAGNER.
H. Res. 129: Mrs. HANDEL and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H. Res. 142: Ms. HANABUSA.
H. Res. 252: Mr. TROTT, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 282: Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Res. 401: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 493: Miss RICE of New York.
H. Res. 495: Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 528: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DONOVAN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 532: Mr. BABIN.
H. Res. 584: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. SLAUGHTER.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, You are our God. Please draw near to all who are affected by the violence in Your house of worship in Sutherland Springs, TX. Comfort those who mourn, bring healing to the injured, and shower Your mercy upon us all.

Lord, keep our lawmakers composed even in life's storms. May they acknowledge their need of Your power, Your wisdom, and Your might. May they run toward life's challenges and hardships, knowing that they are never alone. Satisfy their souls with good things, and transform the mundane into the meaningful. Lord, purify their hearts, creating within them a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Reveal to them Your plans for their well-being, providing them with a future and hope.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). 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 Engel nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of November 2, which notwithstanding rule XXII, be modified to have all executive session cloture motions ripen following the disposition of the Gibson nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Engel nomination, the time postcloture be counted as if invoked at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for most Americans, a church is a place of worship and love, a place where the faithful go to feel mercy and compassion, which is why what happened in Texas yesterday is so difficult for many to comprehend. Why would an individual do this? Families lost so much. Our hearts go out to them in this time of untold grief. Our gratitude goes out to the civilians and first responders who answer the call when others are in need.

As we continue to learn the details of yesterday's tragic events, I, along with all Members of the Senate, will keep the victims of this tragedy and their families in my prayers.

Mr. President, on a completely different matter, last Monday I said the Senate would confirm four excellent

judicial nominees by the end of the week. That is just what we did—Amy Barrett, confirmed; Joan Larsen, confirmed; Allison Eid, confirmed; Stephanos Bibas, confirmed.

After 8 years of a President who selected judges based upon an ideological litmus test designed to find nominees who favor certain groups or individuals over others, we now have a President who is sending over nominees who will ensure that the judiciary is actually living up to the role we expect in our democracy: treating everyone equally, giving every litigant a fair shake, applying the law as it is actually written, not as the judge wishes it might be. The four circuit court nominees the Senate confirmed last week will do just that.

Democrats have put up a lot of procedural roadblocks to prevent the Senate from moving forward all year. We have moved ahead anyway. As a result, despite all the obstacles from the other side, we are making significant progress.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and notable leadership of Judiciary Committee Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY, and I want to thank him again for everything he has done.

We are not finished yet. We are going to keep pressing forward on judicial nominees. We are going to keep confirming the other nominees before us as well.

This week the Senate will consider some of President Trump's other qualified nominees for various positions throughout the Federal Government. Each of these individuals will help lead their agencies to fulfill their particular mission in running the government.

First, we will advance the nomination of Steven Engel to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. Mr. Engel previously worked in the OLC, having done so under President Bush. He also served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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and counsel to the Assistant Attorney General. He obviously has a lot of experience advising senior policymakers on a wide variety of legal issues facing the executive branch. That is good because the role he has been nominated to has the responsibility for providing legal advice to the executive branch on all constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality.

I look forward to advancing Mr. Engel's nomination tomorrow so that he can begin putting his experience to work for our country as soon as possible, and then we will turn to the various other nominees before us so they can begin doing the same. Confirming the President's nominees is an important part of the Senate's business, and I urge all of our colleagues to work together so we can get this done.

TAX REFORM

Now on one final matter, Mr. President, today our colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee began marking up the tax reform legislation they unveiled last week. Under Chairman BRADY's leadership, the committee is continuing its work to get our economy reaching again for its true potential. This is yet more momentum for our country's once-in-a-generation opportunity to update the tax system, deliver relief to hard-working American families, and get our economy creating more opportunities and prosperity.

Under Chairman HATCH's leadership, the Senate Finance Committee is continuing to move forward on its own legislation to increase opportunity and to provide more take-home pay for American families. In an open process through regular order, members of the committee will continue to have input in the writing of this tax reform legislation.

Both Chambers are working with the President and his team to overhaul our country's complex and outdated tax system. We are united around a commonsense set of goals to make taxes lower, simpler, and fairer; take more money out of Washington's pockets and put more money in the pockets of America's middle class; and level the playing field for American workers and businesses so they can compete against foreign competitors on an equal footing and not only create more jobs in America but keep them here too. These are goals shared by so many across our country regardless of party.

It is time to deliver real tax relief for hard-working families, and we are going to keep working together to do just that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the mass shooting in Texas yesterday—the latest mass shooting in what seems like never-ending gun violence in our country. My heart breaks for the victims and their families and for the community of Sutherland Springs in Texas.

We are still gathering all the facts about this specific crime. We are still learning about what happened, how this murderer was able to purchase a gun, whatever his twisted rationale was for walking into a house of worship in a small town and slaughtering more than 20 people, including young children, with an assault weapon. Our incredible law enforcement officials are working hard to answer all of that, but the most important fact of all is something we already know very well. This was yet another case where someone on American soil who had absolutely no business getting his hands on a weapon of war was able to get one and use it to commit heinous mass murder.

Of the five worst mass shootings in our history, three of them have occurred in just the past 17 months. Think about that. In a small town in America, nearly 7 percent of the town's population was slaughtered just because they went to church that day. The weapon he used was based on a military weapon designed for a war zone, but this was not a war zone. It was a church. People were singing and praying and savoring life.

I reject the notion that it is too soon to act. If not now, then when? We should ban assault weapons and bump stocks today. People who don't want to have an honest conversation say we need to wait. Well, for how long? Because we wait, and we wait, and we will see evil rear its ugly head over and over again, and we are told to wait again.

We have enough information today for Congress to do its job and try to keep our constituents safe from gun violence. We had enough information before yesterday to act, but what Congress does not have is the political will to act. My friends, this must change. Thoughts and prayers are not going to stop the next mass shooting. Merely talking about doing something about the mentally ill obtaining guns isn't going to stop the next deranged person with hate in their soul from committing yet another mass murder. The Second Amendment does not mean that Americans should have to risk getting shot because they walked down the wrong street in a city or decided to go to a music festival in Las Vegas or a night club in Orlando or an elementary school in Newtown or a movie theater in Aurora or a church on Sunday in Texas.

After each of these horrific acts of violence, what happened here in Congress? Nothing. More than a month after Las Vegas, we still can't even tackle the most obvious fixes like banning bump stocks. Plain and simple,

Americans are being slaughtered and Congress is refusing to protect them.

I hear my colleagues who rightly say we can't pass laws to stop every instance of a deranged gunman who wants to kill innocent men, women, and children, just like our other criminal laws will not necessarily stop every instance of crime, but there is no excuse for not even trying. Everyone in this Chamber knows that a shooting in a church is something that should never happen in this country. Mr. President, I think you would agree with that. I think everyone who serves in this Chamber would agree with that. So then why aren't we doing anything to stop this violence? Why aren't we making it harder for a crazed, evil person to get their hands on a weapon of war?

It makes me wonder what our colleagues are waiting for. Are they waiting for the NRA to come in and give them cover and tell them it is OK to act? Are they waiting for the NRA to give them permission to stand up and do something? If the NRA said today assault rifles or bump stocks should be banned, it would be done tomorrow. That is the sad truth of this place, but we know the NRA will not say that because they want to keep selling these weapons of war to anyone who is willing to buy them, no matter how unsafe it makes it for the rest of us.

Congress has caved in over and over again to the enormous pressure by the NRA and the gun industry—which just wants to protect their profits—and has ignored the vast majority of Americans. Gun owners and nongun owners alike support commonsense measures to keep their fellow Americans safe.

These mass slaughters continue, and Congress has done nothing—absolutely nothing. To me, this is a monumental failure of leadership, and it is no wonder that gun violence and mass shootings happen here at a higher rate than any other developed country in the world. This has to change. It is not enough to solve the individual crime after the fact. We have to take meaningful, real action to prevent the next one. This is what has to happen. To those who doubt that Congress can actually get something done, we already know that, depending on the motivation, depending on whom Congress is actually listening to, Congress is fully capable of moving quickly to enact change. Instead of acting like its hands are tied and refusing to do anything—which is what is happening right now—far more often than not, Congress listens to the special interests instead of the people who actually elect them to keep them safe.

Look at the shameful state of our gun laws now and tell me if you think these laws came about because families in our States demanded them or was it because the NRA demanded them? Congress has turned a collective back on strengthening and expanding our national background check system. We should be fixing the holes in the system—whatever is necessary—not just

shrugging our shoulders and saying there is nothing that can be done. Who do you think demanded that we don't fix the background check system? Was it families in your State or was it the NRA? Congress refuses to ban high-capacity magazines, which are literally made for war, and let killers fire dozens of rounds without having to stop and reload. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Congress still refuses to ban assault weapons, which are designed for war—designed to kill as many people as possible as rapidly as possible but are given different names so they can be sold in the civilian world. Who do you think demanded that, our families or the NRA?

Congress is on the verge of passing legislation to make it easier right now for killers to buy suppressers, known by many of us as silencers, to attach to their weapons and make it harder for the police to do their jobs and catch violent criminals. Who do you think demanded that? Certainly not the police and not our families—the NRA.

Congress is dragging its feet on banning bump stocks, the inexpensive piece of equipment the killer in Las Vegas used to turn its already-powerful firearm into an automatic weapon capable of firing hundreds of rounds per minute. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Just this February, Congress overturned a rule that had prevented people who were so incapacitated that they could no longer handle their own finances from getting their hands on a gun. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Congress even went so far as to pass a law that blocked the Centers for Disease Control from studying the issue of gun deaths the way they are allowed to study any other cause of death in this country. Why? Because it is an attempt to hide the overwhelming data showing that keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people would decrease gun crime. Who do you think demanded that? Who do you think demanded that Congress suppress the facts and the alarming data about gun violence? Do you think it was families or the NRA?

This really has to change. Congress needs to start protecting the people we were elected to represent. Their voices matter, and it really does matter whom you are listening to. Their voices matter, and they must be heard. We must listen and enact change that would actually help to keep our States safer from gun violence. We are the ones who need to act. We can't ignore our responsibility to keep our country safe from this kind of violence.

To all the people who are watching us right now, I would say this: After all these massacres, pay attention to what your elected leaders are saying. Pay attention to what they are actually doing. Watch how they react. Look closely at how they use their time here. Listen to what they say or don't say. After these mass shootings, did

they tell you we were going to bow our heads for a moment of silence and leave it there or did they tell you we were going to fight with every bit of energy to actually fix these broken gun laws and protect our American citizens?

Democracy only works when regular people stand up and demand action. I urge everyone listening today to demand that action and to hold elected leaders accountable and to ask them to pass meaningful gun reform now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today we join the stunned community of Sutherland Springs, TX—a small town near San Antonio—in mourning the loss of too many innocent lives. One innocent life is too many.

I listened to the impassioned comments of our colleague from New York asking us to do something, but I actually think it is important we understand exactly what did happen, and once the fog of this terrible tragic event lifts, after the law enforcement agencies can do the appropriate investigation, then I think it is appropriate for us to ask: What can we do, consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States—what can we do to make something like this less likely?

I wish I was optimistic there was some magic wand we could wave and that we could prevent terrible tragedies like this, but in a free and open society, unfortunately, we don't have that magic wand.

On the other hand, we have arrived at a consensus, I think, in this country, that background checks, for example, are appropriate for people suffering from mental illness, people who committed previous felonies. Those people are banned from possessing or purchasing firearms, and there is a consensus that they should be banned.

There are some early reports—and, again, the fog of this terrible tragedy has not yet lifted. We need clarity in order to know what did and did not happen and where we might be able to act to make a difference. There is some indication by some news reports that this individual had committed domestic violence and had been convicted of that by a court-martial. That, too, would likely have been a disqualifying factor in his ability to possess or purchase firearms. So we need to know exactly what the facts are.

I appreciate the passion of our colleague from New York. We are all stunned by what happened, but I think being rational people, we ought to want to know exactly what the facts are before we decide what the best course of action might be. It may be that, like we saw a few years back at Virginia Tech, an individual who had previously been adjudicated mentally ill, that determination, that judgment was not entered into the National Instant Background Checks System run

by the FBI, and because it wasn't—because of a failure of communication between the State and Federal authorities—he was able to purchase a firearm when he was legally disqualified from being able to do so.

So those are the sorts of things I think we could work together on. I know, for example, after the terrible shooting in Las Vegas, I was shocked, like so many others were, that somebody could essentially bypass the prohibition against making a semiautomatic weapon into an automatic weapon by the use of the so-called bump stock. As somebody who enjoys the outdoors and is a hunter and enjoys recreational shooting, I can tell you I know of no sportsman, no hunter, who uses a bump stock. It seems to me the sole purpose of this is to bypass the prohibition about turning semiautomatic weapons into automatic weapons. That is something I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will continue to look into and determine whether the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms ought to be extended the authority to regulate the so-called bump stocks.

Back when President Obama was President of the United States, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms said they did not believe they had the authority, but several of us have written to them and asked them to clarify for us just where they think they do have authority and where they feel they need additional authority so we can work with them, hopefully, to prevent terrible tragedies like that from occurring in the future.

Yesterday we all received the news that a gunman opened fire on parishioners at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, killing at least 26 people during the Sunday morning church service. I can't imagine a more vulnerable time. People were sitting in the pews with their heads bowed and their eyes closed and then were exposed to this madman unleashing death in that house of worship. The victims included young children and a pregnant woman, among others. All 26 of them are now gone, aged 18 months to 72 years old.

This small community and an entire Nation must now bind its wounds as we mourn the dead and meet the face of evil with moral clarity and a newfound determination to stem the violence that continues to plague the United States of the America.

We saw in New York that somebody used a vehicle—a car—to mow down people and to kill people as an act of terrorism.

We are vulnerable in so many ways because we are an open society. Unfortunately, these sorts of tragedies seem to come back to us time and again, and we in Texas are not immune.

We remember the knife attack at the University of Texas in Austin earlier this year. We remember the shooting of police officers in downtown Dallas last year, where five police officers perished, and at Fort Hood in 2009. Each of

these events has been shocking, inexplicable, and, certainly, reprehensible.

This tragedy may be the worst of all. That this event occurred in a house of worship makes it all the more grotesque and despicable. Hymns of praise were silenced, and those led to cries for help.

The shooting in Sutherland Springs has been called the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history. It is perhaps better understood by the words of one man whose mother and father were both killed yesterday. He was sitting on the curb, outside the emergency room, at Connally Memorial Medical Center in Floresville, a town nearby. Shaken to the core, he called the events of yesterday "unimaginable." It is impossible to comprehend what it must have felt like to wake up this morning in Sutherland Springs—a small, tight-knit, rural community that is roughly 35 miles southeast of San Antonio—with so many neighbors lost and the sound of yesterday's gunfire and sirens still ringing in the air.

One of the people who lost her life was Crystal Holcombe, who died with her unborn child and several relatives. Another was Annabelle Pomeroy, a shy 14-year-old girl, whose uncle describes her as an "angel in the flesh."

We know, thankfully, that two Good Samaritans turned on and pursued the shooter and may have prevented this nightmare from lasting even longer. We are grateful for the heroism and the quick decisive action of these two men. We know that about 20 injured remain in hospitals, including a 5-year-old, Ryland Ward, who was shot multiple times.

Yesterday I spoke with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt, Jr., and offered not only my condolences but my unequivocal and complete support. Sheriff Tackitt said that the bloody scene inside First Baptist was horrific, but that the response to the tragedy was instantaneous. First responders from the surrounding area, as well as State and Federal officials, inundated Sutherland Springs with logistical resources and personnel, offering their love and compassion, as well—a proud display of what I often see, which is an attitude that being a Texan doesn't describe just where you are from. It describes who your family is.

Today I join the sheriff, as well as Governor Abbott, and my friend Representative HENRY CUELLAR, in whose congressional district this tragedy occurred, my colleague in the Senate, Senator CRUZ, and so many other Texans in asking God for healing and for understanding.

We know the investigation into exactly what happened and why is ongoing, and it is important that we allow this investigation to be completed so we can know what happened and exactly what we might be able to do to prevent tragedies like this from occurring in the future.

I hope that Texans who call Sutherland Springs and First Baptist Church

home will soon have some answers. I send my thoughts and prayers to those who lost parents, children, friends, and relatives in this outrageous and inhuman act. I hope each of us will pledge to be a light in the darkness. To the families whose lives are forever changed by this atrocity, let us provide a strong shoulder of support.

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. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO pertaining to the introduction of S. 2076 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX REFORM

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today the U.S. House of Representatives begins marking up H.R. 1, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, and as the U.S. Senate continues to debate tax cuts, I am reminded of a speech that former Democratic President John F. Kennedy delivered in New York City in 1962. In fact, it was in December of 1962, when he said:

In short, it is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today and tax revenues are too low and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now. The experience of a number of European countries and Japan have borne this out. This country's own experience with tax reduction in 1954 has borne this out. And the reason is that only full employment can balance the budget, and tax reduction can pave the way to that employment. The purpose of cutting taxes now is not to incur a budget deficit, but to achieve the more prosperous, expanding economy which can bring a budget surplus.

President Kennedy went on to say:

I repeat: our practical choice is not between a tax-cut deficit and a budgetary surplus. It is between two kinds of deficits: a chronic deficit of inertia, as the unwanted result of inadequate revenues and a restricted economy; or a temporary deficit of transition, resulting from a tax cut designed to boost the economy, increase tax revenues, and achieve—and I believe this can be done—a budget surplus. The first type of deficit is a sign of waste and weakness; the second reflects an investment in the future.

If someone had just tuned in, they might think I was quoting, perhaps, President Reagan or perhaps some

other Republican leader. This was President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

We need to cut taxes once again and put money back into the pockets of the American people. I can state that Montanans need more jobs, but, importantly, we need better paying jobs. Most importantly, they need bigger paychecks. The best way to give Montanans a pay raise—how about cutting their taxes? We need tax cuts.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Madam President, separately, I just want to express my sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the people of Sutherland Springs, TX. What a devastating turn of events there—men, women, and children showing up for worship on a Sunday in a church. This was an act of pure evil.

My wife Cindy and I are praying for the victims, their families, and the community that has been changed forever.

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.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATURAL GAS LIQUID STORAGE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to talk about an issue in my State of West Virginia—really my region—that is becoming very important, I think, to this country's energy security and prosperity.

As we know, West Virginia has extensive natural gas liquid resources. Nearly a century ago, when these resources were discovered, the rapid growth that followed turned Central West Virginia into a national hub for the petrochemical industry. You know what, we have never looked back.

Today, chemistry remains our State's second largest industry and directly impacts other major sectors like energy, biomedical engineering, and manufacturing. West Virginia is home to 140 different chemical companies that employ nearly 13,000 workers. West Virginia's share of GDP from the chemical industry is the sixth largest in the country, and these products are about one-quarter of our State's major international exports. We still have one of the highest concentrations of chemical, polymer, and resin manufacturers in the world.

The sector is sort of a microcosm of the challenges and opportunities facing this important American industry during a time of fierce international competition. Estimates show, more than 100,000 workers in West Virginia already have the industrial skills to fill jobs in this sector, and there are thousands more who could easily be retrained to fill these jobs in this important industry. With our region's abundance of natural gas from Marcellus

and Utica shale, West Virginia is perfectly positioned for a massive increase of economic growth and new jobs.

Natural gas liquids provide the building blocks for many of the products used by our consumers every single day—products ranging from the dashboard in your car or the water bottle that many of us use. Right now, we don't have the right infrastructure in place to store and distribute the building blocks that make up these products. As a result, these valuable resources are being used to generate heat and electricity, instead of being made into consumer products. As Energy Secretary Perry put it, that's like cooking your breakfast over a fire of hundred dollar bills. This represents a huge opportunity to act on this administration's "America First" energy policy. It is an opportunity to grow an industry here at home with an American workforce and America's natural resources.

To elevate these issues in Congress, I am proud to serve as the cochair of the bipartisan Senate Chemistry Caucus. We host briefings about the importance of this industry to America's economy and national security. States that may not have robust petrochemical sectors, nonetheless, rely on its products for manufacturing, agriculture, and several other key industries.

For months—I would say more than months, years—I have been advancing the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquids market to improve our storage and distribution capabilities. New drilling technologies have unlocked access to trillions upon trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and their associated liquids in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. Some of our most downtrodden economic areas have this valuable asset right there.

Unpredicted just a decade ago, this asset can create a renaissance in the region's petrochemical industry, but this can only happen if policymakers and the private sector seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. To do that, we need to create a natural gas liquid storage hub in Central Appalachia. The concept of this new hub is simple. Right now, because we don't have a way to store these liquids, we are unable to fully maximize this resource. That hurts producers, refiners, and our manufacturers in the State of West Virginia, and Ohio, and beyond.

A storage hub and the necessary pipeline infrastructure would create a robust Appalachian market for natural gas liquids. This would have major national benefits, and here is why. Let's think about the hurricane that just occurred and devastated our friends in Texas. The gulf—and particularly Houston and the storage hub at Mont Belvieu, TX—dominate the domestic market there. Hurricane Harvey knocked out as much as 60 percent of that supply. It knocked it offline, and it took a month to get the hub back up and running. By establishing an Appa-

lachian storage hub away from Hurricane Alley, we would add redundancy that protects our economy and our national security. Having all this storage capacity in only one region of the country only drives up production costs for American manufacturers. I would also add that this resource is in Appalachia. Appalachia should have this storage hub to be able to capitalize and create the jobs right in our own neighborhood.

As Appalachia has become a robust producer of natural gas liquids, pipelines that used to flow from the gulf to the Northeast have been reversed. They are now sent to the gulf for storage and refining. It is sent back as ethylene to the interior of the country—often Appalachia itself—and to the Midwest for manufacturing. This back-and-forth obviously drives up prices for the goods you buy every day, from furniture to toys, to cars.

To be clear, development of an Appalachian hub would not come at the expense of the gulf's market. It is a comparative advantage. The Appalachian hub can more efficiently serve many of the domestic manufacturers, while the gulf can expand its export capacity. Besides making the national market more efficient and resilient, an Appalachian market will drive significant development in a region that desperately needs a boost.

A recent study found that the Appalachian States of West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky would see as much as \$35.8 million in new capital investment, creating more than 100,000 jobs by 2025 with this new hub.

When Secretary Perry accepted my invitation and visited West Virginia in July, the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquid storage hub and market was a great topic of emphasis. The Secretary met with several business leaders as part of a roundtable discussion to discuss paths forward in developing a regional ethane market. Needless to say, the Secretary saw the obvious benefits of such a project and that the hub could play a key role in the administration's related goals of rejuvenating the Appalachian economy and achieving an "America First" energy policy.

The Secretary and I have discussed how best to bring this public-private partnership to life since his visit to West Virginia. I think all of my colleagues—particularly those representing Appalachia—should be as excited about this concept as the Secretary and I are. Several private entities are undertaking that initial development work right now, with interest coming from both domestic and foreign investors.

I have been engaging frequently with Secretary Perry and with Commerce Secretary Ross about making this storage hub a reality. The Trump administration understands the importance of this project to the economies of West Virginia and the region. I appreciate their efforts to help move our State

forward beyond the economic disasters we have had over the last several years. I will continue my advocacy for this enormous economic development opportunity and encourage my colleagues—not just from the States I mentioned but all around the country—to join as partners in this effort.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF PETER ROBB

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this morning I drove from Cleveland to Youngstown. I was in Youngstown, OH—Mahoning Valley—at Teamsters Local 377 talking to workers. There were maybe 200 of them in the room, mostly retirees who are in danger of having their pensions cut—pensions they earned over a lifetime of hard work.

To understand how that happens, when workers are at the bargaining table, whether it is Teamsters, electricians, Steelworkers or SCIU, they so often are willing to give up wages today in order to have a secure retirement in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years.

That is what these workers chose to do. They chose to give up wages. Whether they worked for Schwebel's in Youngstown, whether they worked for Roadway, over the road, whether they were working for any number of companies, they were willing, at the bargaining table, to give up higher wages today to have money to set aside that was then invested often in Wall Street. We will get to that in a minute. It is bad enough Wall Street squandered those workers' money. It is worse that the government that is supposed to look out for these workers simply isn't doing it. One of the retired workers, Ed Barker, told us: We did our part. Now it is time for Members of Congress to cross party lines and do theirs.

We talk a good game in this body about how we respect workers and respect their work, but I am not sure we always live that. If we really value a hard day's work in this country, we start by keeping our promise to these hard-working Ohioans, Virginians, Montanans, and all over this country. We keep our promise to those hard-working people in our country, but we can't end there. That is just the beginning of what we need to do to ensure that hard work pays off for ordinary Americans.

During his campaign, Candidate Trump made a lot of big promises to workers in Ohio. He ran some of his big rallies across our State. He made big promises to workers in Ohio and across the country. He told them he would put American workers first. Well, the White House today looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives, and many of the people the President has put in charge have a record of doing the opposite of putting American workers first.

That is certainly true of Peter Robb, the nominee to serve as the general

counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. Mr. Robb has spent his career working to strip workers of their rights, defend corporations accused of mistreating workers, and he has tried to undermine the watchdog agency he is now seeking to join. He will be working at the National Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to strike a balance and advocate only for American workers. The President's nominee is someone who received a very high salary building his career defending corporations accused of mistreating workers, working to strip workers of their rights, and trying to undermine the NLRB's effort to get a fair shake and build a level playing field for workers.

Someone who views unions and collective bargaining as a threat to be dealt with was primarily the story of Mr. Robb's career, instead of helping to protect the central rights for workers. A person like that has no business serving as the top lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board.

His nomination is just the latest in a long line of evidence that work simply isn't valued in this country the way it used to be. People in Ohio and around the country work harder. They work more days, more hours, longer hours, harder than ever before, and they have less to show for it.

Over the past 40 years, GDP has gone up, corporate profits have gone up, and executive compensation has gone up—all because of the productivity of the American worker, but, fundamentally, the workers haven't shared in the wealth they have created. Again, GDP goes up, profits go up, executive salaries go up, productivity goes up, but workers' wages are stagnant or worse. We know that.

We also know people in this body rarely side with workers in that equation. One major reason the economic growth has not brought higher wages to workers is Americans are less likely to have a union card to protect them. When Americans reminisce about the good jobs that disappeared, I am willing to bet most of those jobs were union.

As manufacturing employment declined, the share of workforce represented by unions declined with it—only more rapidly. I can accept that the workforce is changing, but what we can't accept is more and more of our workers are paid less in wages, have fewer benefits, and have little economic security.

It is no coincidence that over the same timeframe, economic growth in this country has been shared among fewer and fewer Americans. Keep in mind, as the 1 percent gets richer, they take more and more of the profits, they take more of the productivity gains, and workers are left further behind.

We know what will happen with this so-called tax reform that is being considered in the House. They are then going to negotiate it right down the hall here in the majority leader's office

the same way they did healthcare. They will be right down the hall in the majority leader's office with lots of lobbyists but no light shone, no public, and no media coverage.

We know what happens. We know what happens with tax reform like that. The rich get richer and the middle class shrinks. That is the story of those Teamsters in Youngstown today. As I walked with the crowd of Teamsters, I spoke with a number of them on the way in and the way out. I asked how long they had driven a truck. Most had driven 30, some 40, and a few 45 years. They worked that hard. They gave up wages today so they would have a pension in the future. Yet, right now, because of Wall Street misfeasance and malfeasance, in large part, and because government, the people in this body don't have the guts to stand up for these workers, we know what has happened to their pensions, and we know what will happen to their pensions if we don't step in and do the right thing come December this year.

We know what will happen with the tax reform bill, again, written down the hall in the majority leader's office—the same thing. The wealthiest 1 percent get richer. The rich get richer and the powerful get more power and what happens is, the middle class shrinks. We know that.

Last week, I was on the floor with many of my colleagues talking about a case before the Supreme Court—*Janus v. AFSCME*. The case is part of a decades-long attempt to chip away at workers' power in the workplace. Mr. Robb has been part of that effort. The nominee to be the top lawyer at the National Labor Relations Board has been part of the effort to chip away at workers' rights, to continue the demeaning and diminishing role of workers in this country, to suppress wages in this country. He is the person the President of the United States wants to serve as the top lawyer on the National Labor Relations Board.

What is wrong with that picture? He defended corporations accused of discrimination of not paying their workers the paychecks they earned. Imagine, he represented the corporations that tried to keep these workers from getting the paychecks they earned. He worked for an energy company that was working to defeat workers' organizing effort. His own law firm's website brags about how they delayed the election 2 more years.

You know how it works. My colleagues know this. These workers signed a petition. They signed a card, if you will, saying they would like to have a union election. A majority of these workers—probably a majority of 60, 70 percent—signed a card saying they wanted to have a union election. It is a right in this country. It is a right since the 1930s. When President Roosevelt pushed through the National Labor Relations Act, workers received the right to vote on a union. Mr. Robb's company was bragging. They

were bragging that they were able to delay the election for 2 years. So maybe they couldn't defeat the workers, but do you know what you do then? You delay the election because you have really good, high-priced lawyers who know how to do this for management, for the corporation.

If you delay the election for a week, for a month, for a quarter, for half a year, for a year, for 2 years, you know what happens. Many of those workers who signed that petition who thought they might have a shot at the union, some of them got fired, some just left, some of them were ready to retire, maybe some of them died. So by the time the election is held, you have pretty much defeated the organizing effort. That is why people like Mr. Robb don't belong at the National Labor Relations Board.

We need someone in this job who wakes up every day ready to defend American workers, not oppress them, not shut them down, not depress their wages. You don't want somebody who has spent his career trying to bring these workers down.

What Mr. Robb doesn't seem to understand is, it is not corporations that drive the economy, it is workers. We grow the economy from the middle class out.

I know you are going to hear a number of my colleagues who support this huge tax break in this tax bill. It is all about cutting the corporate tax so corporations make more money, have higher profits, have higher executive salaries. It will not have anything to do with wages. It never does. No matter how profitable the companies are, they are not willingly giving higher wages to its workers. You are going to hear from these companies. You are going to hear the defenders of these companies come to this body, and they are going to talk about how corporations are driving the economy; that if you give tax breaks to the richest people in the country, it will trickle down and create jobs and increase wages. Well, it hasn't worked that way in the past.

In the 1990s, Bill Clinton grew the economy. He focused the tax breaks in the tax bills on the middle-class workers and grew the economy out from the middle. Twenty-two million net private sector jobs increased during the Clinton years.

The next 8 years, under President Bush 2, the tax cuts all went to the rich, two major tax cuts—not entirely to the rich but overwhelmingly to the rich. For trickle down, zero net increase of private sector jobs. There were 22 million during the Clinton years because he focused on the middle class. There was zero job growth during the Bush years because it was trickle-down economics.

What is going on in the back room in the majority leader's, Senator McConnell's, back office? It is another tax cut for the rich, trickle down, see what happens. The rich get richer, and the middle class shrinks.

What Mr. Robb doesn't understand is, it is not corporations that drive the economy, it is workers. When the workers are doing better, they are buying more things, they are creating more demand, companies sell more products, the economy grows. If work isn't valued, if corporations short-change workers with the help of lawyers like Mr. Robb, then Americans can't earn their way to a better life for their families no matter how hard they work.

We all know, workers are working harder than ever before. They are working longer hours than ever before. They are more productive. Profits are up. Executive compensation is up. Wages have been flat. What is fair about that? What should we do about that? What we should do about that is not to put people on the National Labor Relations Board who want to do more of the same.

Whenever we face another attack on American workers and their freedom to organize, I think of the words of Pope Francis. He said: "There is no good society without a good union, and there is no good union that is not reborn every day in the peripheries—that does not transform the disregarded stones of the economy into cornerstones." We need laws that reflect the dignity of every discarded stone, of every American working too many hours for too little pay. The last thing we need is another nominee who doesn't value work, another nominee who doesn't respect the Americans who do it, another nominee who always lines up on the side of the richest people in the country and always is working to take rights away from workers, to take wages away from workers, and to take benefits away from workers. That is the story of Mr. Robb's work history in the private sector.

Is that the kind of person you want representing workers and representing the American economy at the National Labor Relations Board? I think not.

I urge my colleagues to listen a little bit more. Go to the Teamsters' hall in Youngstown like I did today. Listen a little more to the Americans we serve. Listen a little less at the country club, to the big corporations trying to squeeze every last penny out of these workers' hands, to squeeze every last penny out of these workers. Reject Mr. Robb's nomination.

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 Sen-

ate 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.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LOGAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a dear friend whom I have known for more than 30 years, Dr. John Logan III, of Henderson, KY. John was recently honored by his community for a lifetime of servant leadership. The city dedicated a plaque on the Henderson Riverwalk, which is one of the many landmarks that John had an indispensable hand in building and one I was proud to work with him to help secure. In a surprise ceremony—John thought he was simply going to lunch with a friend—they honored him for decades of philanthropy and service to his community.

The plaque includes a quote from author Margaret Mead, which reads, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." These words perfectly encapsulate the impact of my friend John.

John serves as the chief medical officer of the Methodist Hospital in Henderson, where he started working in 1962 specializing in family medicine. A number of years ago, John embarked on a mission to highlight the extraordinary history of the hospital. Because of his tireless work, the successes of this Henderson institution will continue to be remembered for years to come. In addition to his work caring for patients and leading the administration of the hospital, John gives of himself to other aspects of the community.

In 1971, John joined the Family YMCA's capital campaign, working to help the group move from its old home downtown to a much larger facility on 5 acres of land. He has continued to work with the YMCA, making sure that young people in Henderson have a well-equipped facility to enjoy and grow. John also helped establish other community initiatives, including Henderson's Depot Welcome Center and the Methodist Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

In 2012, the Henderson Community College board of directors presented John with an award recognizing his substantial service to the school. Through the years, John has taken a keen interest in the students. He worked with State legislators and community leaders to raise \$1 million to support scholarships to the college and to build a fine arts center. His impact will be felt by students for years to come.

John has spent his life giving to others—his community, the Methodist Hospital, and his friends. So many of the projects in Henderson would not have been possible without John's dedi-

cated leadership, and I am immensely proud to call him my friend. His decades of service have truly made Henderson and Kentucky a better place.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the selfless work of Dr. John Logan, a remarkable Kentuckian and a wonderful friend.

Mr. President, The Gleaner in Henderson recently published an article on John's career of service. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Gleaner, Oct. 26, 2017]

DR. JOHN LOGAN HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

(By Douglas White)

It's hard to name a community institution in Henderson that Dr. John Logan hasn't helped or been part of creating.

So when it came time to honor his decades of organizing, cheerleading and fundraising for the Henderson community as a whole, city officials picked perhaps the most scenic spot he's had a hand in bringing to reality.

"Every day he wakes up and works to make this community better," said Dr. Lee Newberry, one of Logan's colleagues at Methodist Hospital, as a plaque was dedicated Tuesday afternoon at the Seventh Street overlook on the Henderson Riverwalk.

"He's a true example of a servant leader."

Newberry and other speakers at the event offered a long list of community projects, programs and buildings that Logan has helped make happen.

A few examples include the modern YMCA facilities, the fine arts center on the campus of Henderson Community College, the downtown Depot building, St. Anthony's Hospice, Colonels to College, the Sandefur Center, and currently in the works, the new 1-69 bridge over the Ohio River.

Attorney David Thomason noted, "Many of those things wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for John."

Thomason recalled how Logan pushed for, and got, money inserted into the state budget for Henderson's fine arts center. It came literally at the midnight hour, but with a catch: Henderson would have to find a way to contribute \$200,000 to make the bonding a reality.

When asked, in the middle of the night, if Logan could make it happen, he replied quickly: "You're damned right!"

"He never met a challenge he didn't embrace," said Thomason. "Once he's on board, the ship doesn't sink. In my opinion, he has done more than any other volunteer in the past 50 years."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the November 2, 2017, vote on calendar No. 433, confirmation of the nomination of Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. circuit judge for the Third Circuit. I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING BERNARD SHAW

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Bernard Shaw devoted his life to supporting Maine's family farms and to preserving our State's agricultural heritage. His recent passing at 88 years of

age was a great loss, but he left behind a legacy that will be cherished for generations to come.

I rise today in tribute to this outstanding leader and to offer my deepest condolences to his wife Norma, family, and friends.

Growing up in Aroostook County, the heart of Maine's potato industry, I saw every day the importance of family farms to our way of life and to our communities. Bernard was a leader in this iconic Aroostook industry.

Born in Limestone, ME, near my hometown of Caribou, Bernard began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward. In addition to helping to build a strong and successful family business, he served the industry in numerous agricultural organizations at the local, State, and national levels.

Bernard served as Maine's commissioner of agriculture from 1988 to 1996 during Governor McKernan's administration. During my own service in State government, I had the pleasure of working alongside Bernard, a leader of uncommon energy, intelligence, and dedication.

During their 67 years of marriage, in both Aroostook County and our State capital of Augusta, Bernard and Norma were active volunteers in their community, serving youth programs, civic organizations, schools, and their church. Upon Bernard's retirement in 1996, the couple devoted countless hours to the Augusta Food Bank, helping their neighbors in need throughout the capital region.

In 2012, Bernard and Norma were honored with the Maine Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award. The citation accompanying that award described them as "two of the most accomplished, yet humble, contributors to Maine's agricultural community" who personified the traditional, hard-working Maine farm family.

Bernard Shaw was guided by the traditions that define Maine, and he strengthened them for the future. His invaluable contributions to agriculture and to our State will be deeply missed, but he will long be remembered for his leadership and vision.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we remember the life of Bernard "Bernie" Shaw, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 88. As a lifelong resident of Maine, a wonderful husband and father to three, and a champion for agriculture, future generations will continue to remember Bernie by the lasting impact he has left on the State.

Originally from Limestone, Bernie attend the Limestone schools and later the University of Maine. It was after this that he met his beloved wife, Norma. In over 65 years of marriage, Bernie and Norma raised three children—Steve, Susan, and Sara—all while running a successful family farm and giving back to their community in numerous ways.

Bernie first began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward, and eventu-

ally took over the family business, before moving to Augusta in 1987. From 1988 to 1994, Bernie served the State of Maine as the commissioner of agriculture. Over the years, he served on local, State, and national level agriculture committees, drawing from his own experience as a former Aroostook County potato farmer. Only a few out of the many groups he championed for, Bernie devoted his time to the Maine Potato Council, the Maine Potato Board, the Agricultural Bargaining Council, and the Land For Maine's Future Board.

After retiring, Bernie devoted much of his time to volunteering at the Augusta Food Bank, and the Windsor Fair. He was honored for this commitment back in 2012, when he received the Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award, along with his wife, Norma. Both were lauded for their weekly efforts with the food bank and their success in expanding the number of families able to be helped.

Bernie Shaw represented in so many ways the values we hold dear in Maine: family, faith, community, service, and tradition. We have much to be thankful for in Maine because of Bernie's dedication and service to the State, and he will be deeply missed by many.

RECOGNIZING CONNORS-EMERSON SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education at Connors-Emerson. Since first being named a Blue Ribbon School in 2004, educators and staff have deepened and expanded standards-based teaching and learning. More than half of the faculty have advanced degrees or certification as master level teachers. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Bar Harbor is the gateway to Acadia National Park, and the school has a strong ethic of environmental responsibility. Currently, the seventh grade students at Connors-Emerson are working on an expeditionary learning unit which is exploring the effects of climate change on Acadia and all of Mount Desert Island.

Bar Harbor also is home to the MDI Biological Laboratory and to the Jack-

son Laboratory, world-renowned research institutions. Connors-Emerson excels in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The math team and robotics team have received honors at both the State and national levels, and the school has been awarded several grants to advance STEM education.

Fully 98 percent of students in grades five through eight participate in after-school activities. From the State champion jazz band and drama to Destination Imagination and the Outdoors Club, students are encouraged to pursue their interests.

As a school community, Connors-Emerson is dedicated to the values of fairness, compassion, honesty, responsibility, respect, and courtesy that help to create a positive, diverse, safe, and caring learning environment.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Connors-Emerson School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire Bar Harbor community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Falmouth Elementary School in Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the fifth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Falmouth. Established just 6 years ago, the elementary school is relatively young; however, it has a rich history steeped in tradition. The union of two schools in 2011 created the largest elementary school in Maine. One of those schools, Plummer-Motz, received a Blue Ribbon Award in 2005, and the dedication to quality education was expanded through a transition that was guided by a team of representatives from each of the two schools.

Faculty and staff at Falmouth are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. They work to ensure a

safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members.

Students have rich and diverse learning opportunities in art and music, and library skills are part of every child's learning. World language instruction starts in the first grade, and computer science classes start in grade 3. Students benefit from interdisciplinary learning through the garden-greenhouse and through celebrations such as Arts Nights, Coder Express, and Engineering Night.

This award recognizes that Falmouth Elementary School students achieve at the highest level. The school involves all students in extracurricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Falmouth Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING FOURTEENTH STREET SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Fourteenth Street School in Bangor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from prekindergarten through the third grade, this outstanding school in the city I am proud to live in is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The success at Fourteenth Street School is the result of two guiding philosophies. The first is "meet the students where they are," with instruction and support tailored to the strengths and needs of each individual student. The second is "all hands on deck," a call for all staff members to engage with students and encourage them to achieve their full potential.

One of the unique features of Fourteenth Street School is the use of every opportunity during the school day to support learning. Whether in the classroom, preparing for recess, or standing in the lunchroom, students may be par-

ticipating in a math game, reciting a rhyme, or singing. The entire school eats lunch together daily, and a staff member uses this time to read aloud to students. This focus on literacy even extends to physical education classes, where the PE teacher often reads articles from sports magazines to students.

The impact of this dedication to individual students is evident. Over the last 5 years, average attendance exceeded 95 percent, and 100 percent of students participated in at least one afterschool activity.

Another important factor in the school's success is the emphasis on building strong relationships with families. Through schoolwide and classroom newsletters, parent meetings, parents and educators accelerating kids—PEAK—events, academic showcases, and, most important, direct communication with teachers, parents have the opportunity to play a significant role in their children's education.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students of Fourteenth Street School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. This outstanding school is making a difference in the lives of its students, helping them to become independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Fourteenth Street School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGI HANRAHAN

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an Alabamian who has spent more than two decades in public service, Peggi Hanrahan.

Many people in Washington, DC, know Peggi as the executive assistant and gatekeeper to the former Alabama Senator, Jeff Sessions, who is now the U.S. Attorney General. For more than 20 years, Jeff Sessions has been a strong leader on the issues of legal reform and immigration. In order to speak with Jeff Sessions on any issue, you had to go through Peggi.

Peggi has earned praise from the countless people she has worked alongside throughout the years. Here are a few statements from her former colleagues.

Attorney General Sessions stated:

Peggi has been at the center of everything we have accomplished in public service. She loves America and its ideals, is smart, decisive, loyal, and a total professional. She speaks up for the high principles she believes in, and for two decades has been the key point of contact in our office for thousands of Alabamians and Americans all over the Country. She has provided invaluable service to me, the Nation, and the so many who she trained and mentored. Though we will miss her marvelous contributions, we wish her all the best as she and Kevin embark on this next adventure.

Kate Hollis, then-Senator Sessions' former scheduler, said the following:

For 14 years I had the pleasure of working side by side with Peggi for Senator Jeff Sessions. We were a great team and became great friends during that time. I can attest that she was one of the hardest working people in the United States Senate who always went the extra mile to assist Senator Sessions and our staff, as well as our constituents from the great State of Alabama.

Pete Landrum, former military legislative assistant under former Senator Sessions, stated:

Peggi Hanrahan is a great colleague and friend. She is a person that can be depended on when things are good or when things are bad—it doesn't matter.

Danielle Cutrona, counselor to the Attorney General, said:

Peggi is an institution in our office. Her loyalty and dedication to then-Senator, now Attorney General Sessions and to his staff has been unwavering. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Peggi all these years and will miss her tremendously.

Michael Brumas, former press secretary for Senator Sessions, said:

The phrase "best in the business" certainly applies to Peggi Hanrahan, who served for more than two decades as Jeff Sessions' executive assistant, first in the Senate and then at the Department of Justice. In many ways Peggi was the backbone of the Senate office, with a knack for solving those administrative dilemmas that always crop up in a busy Senate office as well making sure the senator stuck to his active schedule—not always an easy task.

Senator Sessions' first chief of staff in the Senate, Armand DeKyser, said the following:

From the earliest days of Senator Sessions' tenure when Peggi began sitting just outside Jeff's transition office, she never was more than 20 feet from his desk. She was THE constant among all the many staff that worked for Senator and now Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Her calm demeanor combined with a wonderful work ethic are so very vital to the successful operation of a complex staff operation. She was composed, efficient and trustworthy on the most harried of days—a presidential inauguration, a swearing-in, or even the fateful 9/11 day. Even on a normal day—if there is ever one of those—Peggi's demonstrated support both up and down the ladder of responsibility was one of her best traits and one most admired by all.

Alan Hanson, now Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, said:

Peggi Hanrahan is a national treasure. She is both a trusted confidante and an invaluable colleague. While she will be sorely missed by all of us, her retirement is both hard earned and well deserved.

Paige Hanson, a former Sessions staffer, said:

While I know the Attorney General will miss the benefit of having Peggi around, we are truly happy for her and grateful for her service and friendship.

Stephen Boyd, former communications director for Senator Sessions and now Assistant Attorney General, said:

It is difficult to overstate the important role that Peggi played for all those years in the Senate office. If things got done, it was usually because Peggi made it happen. Her service to then-Senator and now Attorney General Sessions, the Senate, and to the people of Alabama has been tremendous. She is one of many who asked not for recognition

or public appreciation, but only for the opportunity to serve her country alongside a leader she respected. It was a pleasure to work with her for many years, and I certainly hope that she enjoys the retirement that she has clearly earned.

Finally, Rick Dearborn, Senator Sessions' longtime chief of staff and now White House Deputy Chief of Staff, said:

Peggi Hanrahan was an extraordinary member of Senator Sessions' former Senate staff. She is part schoolmarm, part drill sergeant, with a pinch of traffic cop and a spoonful of soft marshmallows all rolled into one. Indispensable in the Senator's office, Peggi made it all run. She organized the Senator's office, our lives, his life, kept up with all our constituents and friends back home, both with personal notes she and the Senator would spend significant time on and checkup calls. She'd place those calls with his good friends back home, often early in the morning and after hours. She was, along with Kate Hollis, the Senator's scheduler, the glue that held us all together. It would have been impossible to manage the Senator's office without her. She was my Senate colleague, my teammate, and continues to be my very dear friend. I wish her and her husband Kevin the absolute best as they enter the next chapter of their lives, separate from the two institutions they served so well, the Senate and the House.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to join all of those who are wishing Peggi and Kevin a very happy retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARTA FORD

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an Iowan who served bravely during the Vietnam war as an Active-Duty nurse and spent nearly three decades in the Army Reserves.

LTC Marta Ford grew up in the small town of Killduff in Iowa's Jasper County. Her father was a World War II veteran who served as a bombardier, flying missions over Europe. She decided to join the Army Nurse Corps at the age of 19, while still in nursing school. Ford underwent basic training in 1966 at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Then, she was stationed at Fort Lee in Virginia. Ford served as an Active Duty member of the Army Nurse Corps until 1969 and remained in the Army Reserves until 1975. She rejoined the Reserves in 1980 and served until retirement in 2004.

Currently, Ford serves her local community as chair of the Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs. In 2013, Ford became the first female commander at the American Legion Post 111 in Newton, IA.

She is just one of the many women and Iowans who served our Nation during the Vietnam war era. All those who honorably served deserve our thanks for their service to our country. I ask my colleagues to join me as I proudly recognize LTC Marta Ford, an Iowan who dedicated her life to service and sacrifice on behalf of this great Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOHN T. NOBLE AND RECOGNIZING THE MAINE VETERANS CEMETERY IN CARIBOU

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the significance of Maine Veterans Cemetery-Caribou and the individual and community spirit of generosity that sustains it as an honored and hallowed resting place for our Nation's veterans.

Conceived in 1998, the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou was created because of a small but determined grassroots effort in Aroostook County, ME, that I was proud to support when I was Governor of Maine and am proud today to acknowledge as Senator for Maine. A diverse team of dedicated people came together to create the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Corporation, NMVCC, comprised of members from various veteran service organizations, community members, and veterans themselves who knew the significance of this undertaking. Since the first concept many hands have helped develop and beautify these 46 acres which provide inground burial for 12,000 and columbarium wall niches for over 1,000 more of our honorably discharged veterans. But this cemetery represents so much more than a final resting place.

It is fitting to include in this statement the name of John T. Noble, the distinguished veteran who epitomizes the efforts behind this cemetery. John would not want all the credit to go to him, and indeed there were many who worked tirelessly to make their dream come to fruition; however, it was the late John T. Noble, along with his wife Joyce, who made the first significant and lasting donation of 33 acres of his family's land to honor veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. They went on to donate even more land and provide countless donations to ensure this cemetery was one to be proud of. John lived by example as a person of great ethics, compassion, and generosity. He possessed these traits throughout his life as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, a businessman, a husband, and a quiet philanthropist who didn't seek recognition for his good works. His motivations were never about himself but about how he could give back to others.

Our veterans risk their lives in the service to our great Nation. They make countless personal sacrifices to protect freedom, and many go on to continue to find ways to serve others—like the honorable efforts of a small community in northern Maine to turn what once was farmland into a reverent final resting place for those who gave so much. It is my honor to recognize the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery-Caribou and to pay tribute to John and Joyce Noble. Due to the generosity they demonstrated, the northern region of Maine is able to provide a proper final resting place for our brave veterans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13712 OF NOVEMBER 22, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO BURUNDI—PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to the situation in Burundi, is to continue in effect beyond November 22, 2017.

The situation in Burundi, which has been marked by killing and other violence against civilians, unrest, the incitement of violence, and significant political repression, and which threatens the peace, security, and stability of Burundi and the region, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 with respect to the situation in Burundi.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12170 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1979, WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12938 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1994, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—PM 21

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the

House of Representatives announcing that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 304) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 304. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 849. An act to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

H.R. 3922. An act to extend funding for certain public health programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), clause 10 of rule 1, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. GALLAGHER of Wisconsin, to fill the existing vacancy thereon; Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER of Maryland.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 849. An act to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3922. An act to extend funding for certain public health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 2, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 782. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3380. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Freedom of Information Act Regulation" (RIN3133-AD44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3381. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for fiscal years 2013-2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3382. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Annual Report to the Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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. WYDEN:

S. 2075. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2077. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. Flake):

S. 2078. A bill to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. Brown):

S. 2079. A bill to promote economic security and workplace accountability for the workers of air carriers, and their subcontractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. Rubio):

S. 2080. A bill to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2081. A bill to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2082. A bill to terminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 355

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 563

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 591

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 744

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 744, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to delay the inclusion in consumer credit reports and to establish requirements for debt collectors

with respect to medical debt information of veterans due to inappropriate or delayed billing payments or reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 778

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs and to facilitate information sharing among States.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 818, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

S. 1108

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1108, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

S. 1113

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins for digestive and inherited metabolic disorders under Federal health programs and private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 1333, a bill to

provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1730

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1730, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1753

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1842

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1842, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to establish a public health plan.

S. 2006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2006, a bill to require breast density reporting to

physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2044, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to restrict the use of funds for kinetic military operations in North Korea.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 2073

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2073, a bill to establish a vegetation management pilot program on National Forest System land to better protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfire, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Nevada, Senator CORTEZ MASTO, to introduce the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's—or BOLD—Act. I am pleased that Senator CAPITO and Senator KAINE are also joining us as original cosponsors.

Our legislation would create a public health infrastructure aimed at combating Alzheimer's disease and preserving brain health. Alzheimer's disease is one of the greatest and most under-recognized public health threats of our time. Former Surgeon General David Satcher has said that it is the most under-recognized public health threat of the 21st century. Five and a half million Americans are living with the disease, and that number will soar as our population continues to grow older and lives longer.

In addition to the human suffering it causes, Alzheimer's is our Nation's

most costly disease. The United States spends more than \$259 billion per year, including \$175 billion in Medicare and Medicaid costs. The financial impact of this dreadful disease will only continue to grow. In fact, it is estimated that by the year 2050, Alzheimer's will cost our country \$1 trillion and afflict 16 million Americans.

While Alzheimer's is the only one of our Nation's most deadly diseases without an effective treatment or cure, tantalizing new research suggests that there are steps we can take to promote prevention and improve treatment.

The first step we should take is to recognize Alzheimer's as a public health crisis. It is because of public health advancements that we have safe water to drink, vaccines to prevent deadly diseases, interventions to quit smoking, and emergency preparedness tools to save lives. The effort to combat Alzheimer's disease requires a similar unified, national public health effort. That effort is gaining steam.

In 1999, when I founded the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's, there was virtually no focus in Washington on this devastating disease. In fact, people were afraid to even refer to the disease, just as years ago people did not talk about cancer.

Seven years ago, I coauthored with then-Senator Evan Bayh the bipartisan National Alzheimer's Project Act, which set the primary goal of preventing and effectively treating the disease by the year 2025. That bill created an expert council, which has calculated that \$2 billion in Federal funding per year is needed to achieve that goal.

On the Appropriations Committee, I have worked hard with Senator BLUNT and others to turn the words of that recommendation into action. The funding bill for this year provides another \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, and that includes a \$414 million increase for Alzheimer's research—the largest in history. That brings the total for Alzheimer's research to \$1.8 billion—well within reach of the \$2 billion goal, which the experts tell us is necessary for breakthroughs.

While this research is moving forward, we must put into practice what we know and enhance the quality of care and support for those living with Alzheimer's and their families. In March, the Aging Committee, which I chair, held a hearing on the arc of Alzheimer's, from preventing cognitive decline to ensuring quality care for those living with dementia. The hearing shed light on the fact that although we do not yet know how to prevent Alzheimer's, we are advancing in our understanding of the disease. Its progression does not happen overnight; it is preceded by years and perhaps decades of changes in the brain and a continuum of changes in behavior, including cognitive decline. A growing body of evidence suggests that lifestyle factors, such as regular physical activity

and attention to heart health, may reduce the risk of cognitive decline. There is so much we have yet to know.

Alzheimer's is a public issue for those living with the disease, for those caring for their loved ones with the disease, for all of us as taxpayers, and for those who know that our brain is our most precious resource. Alzheimer's exacts a tremendous personal and economic toll on families and communities. More than 40 million Americans know all too well the compassion, commitment, and endurance that it takes to be a caregiver of a loved one facing a chronic disease like Alzheimer's.

The legislation we are introducing today would apply a new public health approach to Alzheimer's disease. It would establish Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice dedicated to promoting effective Alzheimer's disease management and caregiving interventions, as well as educating the public on the disease, cognitive decline, and brain health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is already doing tremendous work to combat Alzheimer's within the Public Health Road Map of the Healthy Brain Initiative. This legislation would create centers of excellence across the country to implement the CDC's Public Health Road Map. The centers would take a number of key steps against Alzheimer's. They would work to support early detection and diagnosis, lessen the risk of avoidable hospitalizations, reduce the risk of cognitive decline, enhance support to meet the needs of caregivers, reduce health disparities, and support care planning and management for those with the disease. The Centers' activities would support health and social services professionals as well as families and communities.

In addition to establishing the Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice, this bill would spread the opportunity for communities across America to create the necessary core capacity to combat Alzheimer's and to enhance existing efforts in this regard. The legislation would establish and distribute cooperative agreements to public health departments to support systems change, communications, and programmatic interventions. These agreements would also support the actions in the CDC Healthy Brain Initiative's Public Health Roadmap.

Finally, at the heart of public health is data. This legislation would direct the CDC to collect data on cognitive decline, cognitive impairment, caregiving, and health disparities within its current systems. The bill would also create cooperative agreements for the analysis and reporting of data to ensure that the results are disseminated to the public and are used, ultimately, to improve brain health.

For far too long, we have viewed Alzheimer's disease as an aging issue that plagues our seniors today and threatens to affect many more tomorrow. In fact, the disease is far more than that.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017.

It is a public health issue with a course that we can change. If we do not take action, both in this new public health approach and by continuing to build on the research, this disease will bankrupt the Medicare and the Medicaid Programs. We cannot afford to spend over \$1 trillion in the year 2050 on just this one disease. We cannot afford to lose 16 million Americans by that year to this devastating disease. We cannot afford to allow the heartache and devastation of this disease to affect more and more American families.

There are steps that we can take today to prevent cognitive decline and to improve the lives of those who are living with Alzheimer's and the lives of their caregivers. This public health approach is not only empowering, but it is key to avoiding the terrible impacts that I have outlined.

After decades of expanding much needed biomedical research in Alzheimer's, we are ready for the next step—to translate research into policy. The BOLD bill would create a new, enlightened public policy out of promising research by creating the first ever national public health infrastructure for Alzheimer's disease.

I am pleased to say that the bipartisan bill that the Senator from Nevada and I have introduced, with our colleagues from Virginia and West Virginia, is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association, the Alzheimer's Impact Movement, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and the National Association of Counties.

I ask unanimous consent that their letters of support be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical and bipartisan legislation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT MOVEMENT,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2017.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM KAINE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO AND KAINE: On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the bipartisan Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

As scientists continue to search for a way to prevent, cure, or slow the progression of Alzheimer's through medical research, public health plays an important role in promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level change, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would provide this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's centers of excellence across the country and funding state, local and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly institutionalized care. These goals are consistent with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which includes a strategy to "work with state, tribal, and local governments to improve coordination and identify model initiatives to advance Alzheimer's disease and related dementias awareness and readiness across the government."

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would also increase the collection, analysis and timely reporting of Alzheimer's data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies. Finally, the bill would also strengthen implementation of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Road Map, which includes strategic action items for state and local public health departments and their partners to promote cognitive functioning, address cognitive impairment and help meet the needs of care partners.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Senior Director of Federal Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT EGGE,
Chief Public Policy Of-
ficer, Executive Vice
President, Govern-
ment Affairs, Alz-
heimer's Association.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM KAINE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO AND KAINE: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership on the important public health issues facing our nation, including the urgent issue of Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We are pleased to support the bipartisan Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

Former Surgeon General and Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. David Satcher recently said, "Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized threat to public health in the 21st century." More than 5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system.

Public health plays an important role in protecting the health and well-being of Americans, including promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level change, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would provide this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's centers of excellence across the country and funding state, local and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly institutionalized care.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would also increase the collection, analysis and timely reporting of data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies. Finally, the bill would also strengthen nationwide implementation of the CDC's Public Health Road Map, which includes strategic action items for state and local public health departments and their partners to promote cognitive functioning, address cognitive impairment and help meet the needs of care partners.

We deeply appreciate your leadership on behalf of the public health community and

all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill.

Sincerely,

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION,
ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT
MOVEMENT,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHRONIC DISEASE,
DIRECTORS, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES.

Ms. COLLINS. I am now very pleased to yield to the coauthor of this important bill. Senator CORTEZ MASTO has been an extraordinary member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. She attends every single hearing, which is amazing, given our schedules, and she contributes so much to the debate and questioning in those hearings. I am delighted to join in this effort with her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleague from Maine, whose amazing work as chair of the Aging Committee continues to inspire me.

I also rise to share a story that is very personal to me. It is a story about one of the smartest people whom I have known, my grandmother Katherine, whom I was named after. She was the daughter of an Italian immigrant and his Italian-American wife. She was exactly the kind of person you think of when you think of an Italian grandmother. If you have ever had one, you know that she loves to feed people and invite the whole family—aunts, uncles, cousins, everyone—over to her house for dinner on Sunday nights. The other 6 days of the week, she worked on volunteer projects throughout Las Vegas with her sorority, Beta Sigma Phi.

She never graduated from college, but she was a leader in our community, and she was always reading. If you walked into her house, it was full of books. In fact, the first thing that you saw when you walked into her house was, on one wall, floor to ceiling, a bookcase with all of the books that she had read.

She was brilliant. She was one of my greatest inspirations. Her work in our community in Las Vegas is one of the reasons that I decided to pursue a career in public service.

Unfortunately, in the 1990s, my grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. At first, you could barely notice a difference. There were small things, things that could happen to anyone—lost keys, mismatched socks, books left in odd places. Then a woman who had spent her entire life loving to cook for her family and grandchildren had suddenly stopped cooking.

Over the next 10 years, she got progressively worse. We could see the changes in her every single day, but our lives changed too. My grandfather became her caregiver. My mother became her caregiver. My aunt became

her caregiver. My cousins and I and my sister all became caregivers. That is what happens when someone is diagnosed. It does not affect just one person; it affects an entire family.

There is a common misconception that people who are suffering from Alzheimer's are not aware of what they are losing, that their memories are gone but not missed. That was not the case for my grandmother. I do not think it is the case for anyone who is struggling with this disease. My grandmother frequently had these moments of clarity when it was clear that the losses were just as painful for her as they were for all of us.

One thing that happens to many people with Alzheimer's is that they tend to wander. They wander away from home or they get lost. She had had one of those moments of clarity after she had wandered away from home one day, and the entire family had spent an afternoon looking for her in our neighborhood. My aunt and I had found her and had gone to pick her up in a car. I will never forget it, as I sat in the back seat while my aunt drove.

My grandmother, who had been seated on the front passenger's side, asked my aunt: Why am I doing this? Why am I in my housecoat and slippers? Why am I doing this?

My aunt looked at her and she said: Mom, you are sick. You have something they call Alzheimer's, and that means that it is impacting your brain and your memories, and you are forgetting.

We were so powerless. We couldn't do anything but make her comfortable and bring her home.

For many, many families who are dealing with Alzheimer's, they have gone through those same moments—those moments when they are dealing with their loved ones either trying to explain to them what is happening or giving them comfort because they know their memories are gone, and they want to make sure they are giving them the comfort they need and they deserve.

We know, unfortunately, that there is no cure for Alzheimer's. My grandmother passed away, as many people with Alzheimer's do, when her illness got so bad that she lost the ability to eat or drink, but the experience of caring for my grandmother opened my eyes to the true impact of this disease. I saw that when one person is diagnosed, whole families' lives are transformed too. I think about my grandmother every day. Every day, I return to some piece of wisdom or guidance that she shared with me. I am committed now to honoring her memory by fighting to prevent Alzheimer's and to provide caregivers with the support they need and deserve.

When my grandmother was first diagnosed, we did not understand Alzheimer's like we do today. We did not have enough healthcare programs for it or support for the caregivers. It was seen as an individual disease that

struck at random, with no cure and no hope. Although there is still no cure, we know now that there are things that we can do to help to keep the brain healthy longer and possibly reduce the risk of Alzheimer's and that there are things that we can do now to promote prevention.

For those who are already living with Alzheimer's and for their caregivers, like my family was for my grandmother, there are things that we can do to dramatically improve their experiences and to help lessen some of that burden. Today there are things we can do to invest in finding that cure for Alzheimer's. It is just a petri dish away, but we have to believe that it is there and that we can continue and support that investment. I have visited the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas and met with its director, Dr. Jeffrey Cummings. I have seen the incredible work they have done, including their methods for the early detection of Alzheimer's, which simply did not exist only a few years ago. Yet education in the community and the spreading of best practices still lag behind.

There is no longer any doubt that this is a public health crisis. That is why I am so grateful and proud to be sitting on a committee and working with a chairwoman, my colleague from Maine, who has made an effort here in Congress to really bring attention to Alzheimer's disease and to help to fight for funding and investment in a cure.

I am proud to join my colleagues from Maine, West Virginia, and Virginia in introducing legislation that is known as the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. This bill will create Centers of Excellence that will be dedicated to promoting effective interventions and educating the public on Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health. It will provide grants to State and local health departments to build the infrastructure that is necessary to address this public health crisis, and it will collect the data that is necessary to keep pushing the frontiers of what we know about this disease.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital, bipartisan piece of legislation that has the potential of having a positive impact on millions of Americans across this country.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1579. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1579. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL)) proposed an amendment to the

bill H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, 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 “Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATION THROUGH THE BLUE CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 434. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘human trafficking’ means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a program, which shall be known as the ‘Blue Campaign’. The Blue Campaign shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Blue Campaign shall be to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary, working through the Director, shall, in accordance with subsection (e)—

“(1) issue Department-wide guidance to appropriate Department personnel;

“(2) develop training programs for such personnel;

“(3) coordinate departmental efforts, including training for such personnel; and

“(4) provide guidance and training on trauma-informed practices to ensure that human

trafficking victims are afforded prompt access to victim support service providers, in addition to the government assistance required under section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105), to address their immediate and long-term needs.

“(e) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—The Blue Campaign shall provide guidance and training to appropriate Department personnel and other Federal, State, tribal, and law enforcement personnel, as appropriate regarding—

“(1) programs to help identify instances of human trafficking;

“(2) the types of information that should be collected and recorded in information technology systems utilized by the Department to help identify individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking;

“(3) systematic and routine information sharing within the Department and among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies regarding—

“(A) individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking; and

“(B) patterns and practices of human trafficking;

“(4) techniques to identify suspected victims of trafficking along the United States border and at airport security checkpoints;

“(5) methods to be used by the Transportation Security Administration and personnel from other appropriate agencies—

“(A) to train employees of the Transportation Security Administration to identify suspected victims of trafficking; and

“(B) to serve as a liaison and resource regarding human trafficking prevention to appropriate State, local, and private sector aviation workers and the traveling public;

“(6) utilizing resources, such as indicator cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, posters, brochures, and radio and television campaigns—

“(A) to educate partners and stakeholders; and

“(B) to increase public awareness of human trafficking;

“(7) leveraging partnerships with State and local governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking; and

“(8) any other activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the Blue Campaign.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following:

“Sec. 434. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign.”.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance required under section 434(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, the integration of information technology systems utilized within the Department to record and track information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status and effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign; and

(2) provides a recommendation regarding the appropriate office within the Department of Homeland Security for the Blue Campaign.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$819,000 to carry out section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Tunisia	Dinar		412.00						412.00
Egypt	Pound		448.00						448.00
Jordan	Dinar		569.81						569.81
United States	Dollar				4,855.26				4,855.26
Paul Grove:									
Pakistan	Rupee		110.00						110.00
Turkey	Lira		131.00						131.00
Iraq	Dinar		22.00						22.00
United States	Dollar				9,389.96				9,389.96
Tim Rieser:									
Mexico	Peso		1,119.00						1,119.00
United States	Dollar				3,148.00				3,148.00
Kate Kaufer:									
South Korea	Won		1,056.00						1,056.00
Japan	Yen		1,226.67						1,226.67
United States	Dollar				4,281.50				4,281.50
John Lucio:									
South Korea	Won		1,056.00						1,056.00
Japan	Yen		1,226.67						1,226.67
United States	Dollar				5,803.05				5,803.05
Allen Cutler:									
Norway	Krone		600.00						600.00
United States	Dollar				6,896.00				6,896.00
Jason Wheelock:									
Kosovo	Euro		173.53						173.53
Serbia	Dinar		566.00						566.00
United States	Dollar				2,842.76				2,842.76
Senator Roy Blunt:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,081.00						1,081.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		379.65						379.65
Stacy McBride:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		339.24						339.24
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,081.00						1,081.00
Croatia	Kuna		379.65						379.65
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Linda Good:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,079.00						1,079.00
Croatia	Kuna		339.24						339.24
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Laura Friedel:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,079.00						1,079.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.24						339.24
Chris Hall:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.24						339.24
Kay Webber Cochran:									
Montenegro	Euro		262.00						262.00
Croatia	Kuna		342.00						342.00
Slovenia	Euro		149.00						149.00
Senator Jerry Moran:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		47.00						47.00
Germany	Euro		564.20						564.20
Caroline Ross:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		47.00						47.00
Germany	Euro		564.20						564.20
Michael Zamore:									
Japan	Yen		458.91						458.91
South Korea	Won		1,056.27						1,056.27
China	Renminbi		386.64						386.64
Christy Gleason:									
Nigeria	Naira		1,299.18						1,299.18
Ghana	Cedi		428.95						428.95
Cote D'Ivoire	Euro		465.60						465.60
Delegation Expenses:*									
Mexico	Peso						493.33		493.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
Pakistan	Rupee						287.63		287.63
Turkey	Lira						323.38		323.38
Iraq	Dinar						6,180.00		6,180.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Tunisia	Dinar						19.92		19.92
Egypt	Pound						657.83		657.83
Jordan	Dinar						168.20		168.20
Delegation Expenses:*									
Slovenia	Euro						2,726.85		2,726.85
Montenegro	Euro						3,003.91		3,003.91
Croatia	Kuna						3,829.42		3,829.42
Albania	Lek						1,966.00		1,966.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						387.94		387.94
South Korea	Won						408.26		408.26
China	Renminbi						808.35		808.35
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ghana	Cedi						204.14		204.14
Gambia	Dollar						59.31		59.31
Cote D'Ivoire	Euro						1,761.40		1,761.40
Delegation Expenses:*									
Serbia	Dinar						153.00		153.00
Kosovo	Euro						43.27		43.27
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,035.41		1,035.41
South Korea	Won						586.01		586.01
Total			28,705.89		37,216.53		25,103.56		91,025.98

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 26, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				15,827.28				15,827.28
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		232.58						232.58
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		21.00						21.00
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Truman Anderson:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator David Perdue:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Caitlin Poling:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		85.00						85.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		405.68						405.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator Elizabeth Warren:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		402.68						402.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Sasha Baker:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.10						345.10
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				328.89				328.89
Pakistan	Rupee				226.89		1,958.17		2,185.06
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Egypt	Pound		639.30						639.30
Greece	Euro		1,071.02						1,071.02
Belarus	Ruble		1,195.02						1,195.02
Theda Khrestin:									
Egypt	Pound		450.14						450.14
Greece	Euro		572.61						572.61
Belarus	Ruble		826.66						826.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
Egypt	Pound						2,070.24		2,070.24
Greece	Euro				518.85		695.71		1,214.56
Belarus	Ruble						3,763.47		3,763.47
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				12,076.66				12,076.66
Italy	Euro		202.24						202.24
Daniel Lerner:									
United States	Dollar				23,114.76				23,114.76
Australia	Dollar		1,904.70						1,904.70
New Zealand	Dollar		425.99						425.99
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				14,698.90				14,698.90
Australia	Dollar		1,502.32						1,502.32
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar				318.00				318.00
New Zealand	Dollar				657.53				657.53
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				26,481.59				26,481.59
Uzbekistan	So'm		748.24						748.24
Jordan	Dinar		1,106.00						1,106.00
Lebanon	Pound		100.00						100.00
Australia	Dollar		440.00						440.00
New Zealand	Dollar		350.00						350.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Uzbekistan	So'm				185.16		294.84		480.00
Jordan	Dinar				1,365.18		1,711.30		3,076.48
Lebanon	Pound						6,581.49		6,581.49
Australia	Dollar				1,098.00				1,098.00
New Zealand	Dollar				709.79		93.48		803.27
Senator Tom Cotton:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		882.36						882.36
Slovenia	Euro		332.13						332.13
Alex Wong:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,365.23						1,365.23
Croatia	Kuna		890.65						890.65
Slovenia	Euro		323.53						323.53
Senator Thom Tillis:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		854.04						854.04
Slovenia	Euro		332.13						332.13
Chad Rhoades:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		835.51						835.51
Slovenia	Euro		323.53						323.53
Delegation Expenses:*									
Montenegro	Euro				462.57		1,376.57		1,839.14
Croatia	Kuna				1,055.42		1,445.43		2,500.85
Slovenia	Euro				271.43		1,397.88		1,669.31
Albania	Lek						561.71		561.71
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				10,678.86				10,678.86
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,443.22						1,443.22
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling				2,615.00				2,615.00
Senator Elizabeth Warren:									
United States	Dollar				11,528.36				11,528.36
Poland	Zloty		233.72						233.72
Estonia	Euro		212.73						212.73
Germany	Euro		221.22						221.22
Jon Donenberg:									
United States	Dollar				12,923.20				12,923.20
Poland	Euro		242.46						242.46
Estonia	Euro		200.87						200.87
Germany	Euro		213.45						213.45
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						1,121.18		1,121.18
Estonia	Euro				1,218.97				1,218.97
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				12,509.86				12,509.86

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		351.00						351.00
Ghana	Cedi		711.00						711.00
Liberia	Dollar		290.00						290.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Ghana	Cedi				224.23				224.23
Jason Potter:									
United States	Dollar				9,698.86				9,698.86
Bahrain	Dinar		1,184.14						1,184.14
Delegation Expenses: *									
Bahrain	Dinar				83.64		365.48		449.12
Will Quinn:									
United States	Dollar				14,468.16				14,468.16
Qatar	Riyal		512.16						512.16
Bahrain	Dinar		393.53						393.53
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Riyal						41.82		41.82
Bahrain	Dinar						263.05		263.05
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				13,580.20				13,580.20
Germany	Euro		86.37						86.37
Italy	Euro		228.83						228.83
Romania	Leu		85.80						85.80
Bulgaria	Lev		240.00						240.00
Jordan	Dinar		129.50						129.50
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				14,814.56				14,814.56
Germany	Euro		86.37						86.37
Italy	Euro		228.83						228.83
Romania	Leu		85.80						85.80
Bulgaria	Lev		240.00						240.00
Jordan	Dinar		129.50						129.50
Delegation Expenses: *									
Romania	Leu						59.36		59.36
Bulgaria	Lev						86.80		86.80
Jordan	Dinar				108.40		32.45		140.85
Senator Gary Peters:									
Ghana	Cedi		353.14						353.14
Nigeria	Naira		1,274.47						1,274.47
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		581.89						581.89
Bentley Johnson:									
Ghana	Cedi		387.98						387.98
Nigeria	Naira		876.39						876.39
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		614.76						614.76
Delegation Expenses: *									
Nigeria	Naira						385.60		385.60
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc						2,544.42		2,544.42
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				16,205.50				16,205.50
Italy	Euro		2,657.32						2,657.32
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro				431.14		234.36		665.50
Germany	Euro						708.88		708.88
Senator John McCain:									
Italy	Euro		1,956.28						1,956.28
Christian Brose:									
Italy	Euro		968.14						968.14
Truman Anderson:									
Italy	Euro		968.14						968.14
Dustin Walker:									
Italy	Euro		1,160.95						1,160.95
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro				3,424.18		4,184.00		7,608.18
Totals			44,517.18		286,544.84		31,977.69		363,039.71

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Oct. 25, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				6,495.64				6,495.64
Marshall Islands	Dollar		407.80						407.80
Micronesia States	Dollar		568.81						568.81
David Gillers:									
United States	Dollar				6,495.64				6,495.64
Marshall Islands	Dollar		456.30						456.30
Micronesia States	Dollar		689.50						689.50
Total			2,122.41		12,991.28				15,113.69

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 18, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Mark Appleton:									
Japan	Yen		615.42						615.42
South Korea	Won		1,181.27						1,181.27
China	Renminbi		309.02						309.02
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Korea	Won						408.27		408.27
China	Renminbi						808.36		808.36
Total			2,105.71				1,216.63		3,322.34

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 30, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Mexico	Peso		571.30						571.30
El Salvador	Dollar		141.85						141.85
Honduras	Lempira		362.33						362.33
United States	Dollar				4,737.89				4,737.89
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Mexico	Peso		571.30						571.30
El Salvador	Dollar		141.85						141.85
Honduras	Lempira		197.78						197.78
United States	Dollar				8,354.91				8,354.91
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						5,135.60		5,135.60
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Ghana	Cedi		342.53						342.53
Nigeria	Naira		1,124.06						1,124.06
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		557.00						557.00
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Ghana	Cedi		371.44						371.44
Nigeria	Naira		732.99						732.99
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		543.02						543.02
Shane Warren:									
Togo	CFA Franc		596.44						596.44
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Rory Heslington:									
Togo	CFA Franc		525.44						525.44
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Anderson Heiman:									
Togo	CFA Franc		610.91						610.91
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Christopher Armstrong:									
China	Yuan		1,207.71						1,207.71
Hong Kong	Dollar		872.00						872.00
United States	Dollar				12,464.26				12,464.26
Shane Warren:									
Mexico	Peso		481.63						481.63
United States	Dollar				1,486.09				1,486.09
Douglas Petersen:									
Mexico	Peso		1,006.58						1,006.58
United States	Dollar				1,096.59				1,096.59
Jayne White:									
Mexico	Peso		1,007.25						1,007.25
United States	Dollar				3,240.49				3,240.49
Elissa Alben:									
Mexico	Peso		607.30						607.30
United States	Dollar				3,240.49				3,240.49
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						73.00		73.00
Christopher Campbell:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,147.00						1,147.00
United States	Dollar				17,603.56				17,603.56
A. Jay Khosla:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,059.60						1,059.60
United States	Dollar				14,234.46				14,234.46
Shane Warren:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,102.78						1,102.78
United States	Dollar				13,909.56				13,909.56
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						481.00		481.00
Jayne White:									
Germany	Euro		910.77						910.77
United States	Dollar				12,820.96				12,820.96
Shane Warren:									
United States	Dollar				3,139.07				3,139.07
Douglas Petersen:									
Canada	Dollar		1,234.17						1,234.17
United States	Dollar				3,132.22				3,132.22
Jayne White:									
Canada	Dollar		1,232.89						1,232.89
United States	Dollar				3,111.02				3,111.02
Elissa Alben:									
Canada	Dollar		642.33						642.33
United States	Dollar				3,111.02				3,111.02
Greta Peisch:									
Canada	Dollar		1,263.32						1,263.32
United States	Dollar				3,136.72				3,136.72
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						105.00		105.00

Total	21,165.57	133,929.90	5,794.60	160,890.07
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* Delegation Expenses include Embassy overtime, Security, transportation, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 29, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Ghana	Cedi		435.00						435.00
Nigeria	Naira		1,144.77						1,144.77
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		550.89						550.89
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Ghana	Cedi		425.33						425.33
Nigeria	Naira		731.88						731.88
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		676.51						676.51
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ghana	Cedi						627.99		627.99
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc						2,129.70		2,129.70
Gambia	Dalasi						1,008.35		1,008.35
Senator Ron Johnson:									
Poland	Zloty		242.10						242.10
Serbia	Dinar		217.68						217.68
Kosovo	Euro		166.49						166.49
Greece	Euro		205.71						205.71
United States	Dollar				12,389.16				12,389.16
Lydia Westlake:									
Poland	Zloty		233.15						233.15
Serbia	Dinar		217.68						217.68
Kosovo	Euro		162.93						162.93
Greece	Euro		206.91						206.91
United States	Dollar				10,800.16				10,800.16
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						23.00		23.00
Serbia	Dinar						1,367.00		1,367.00
Kosovo	Euro						973.49		973.49
Greece	Euro						2,480.00		2,480.00
Senator Ed Markey:									
Japan	Yen		533.91						533.91
Korea	Won		1,245.15						1,245.15
China	Yuan Renminbi		461.64						461.64
Phillip McGovern:									
Japan	Yen		533.91						533.91
Korea	Won		1,181.27						1,181.27
China	Yuan Renminbi		309.02						309.02
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Japan	Yen		452.70						452.70
Korea	Won		1,265.65						1,265.65
China	Yuan Renminbi		456.43						456.43
Jeremiah Baumann:									
Japan	Yen		418.32						418.32
Korea	Won		1,162.50						1,162.50
China	Yuan Renminbi		422.05						422.05
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,548.58		1,548.58
Korea	Won						1,633.04		1,633.04
China	Yuan Renminbi						3,233.42		3,233.42
Brooke Eisele:									
France	Euros		717.00						717.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,012.32						1,012.32
United States	Dollar				6,340.26				6,340.26
Grant Mullins:									
France	Euros		717.00						717.00
Jordan	Dinar		988.32						988.32
United States	Dollar				6,340.26				6,340.26
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euros						698.00		698.00
Jordan	Dinar						334.62		334.62
Heather Flynn:									
Kenya	Shilling		745.28						745.28
Sudan	Pound		414.00						414.00
United States	Dollar				5,225.28				5,225.28
Delegation Expenses:*									
Sudan	Pound						351.00		351.00
Caleb McCarry:									
Uzbekistan	Dollar		940.00						940.00
United States	Dollar				2,896.36				2,896.36
Sarah Downs:									
Uzbekistan	Dollar		889.00						889.00
United States	Dollar				2,896.36				2,896.36
Damian Murphy:									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		865.00						865.00
Bosnia	Bosnian Mark		464.43						464.43
United States	Dollar				2,553.86				2,553.86
Megan Bartley:									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		819.27						819.27
Bosnia	Bosnian Mark		443.40						443.40
United States	Dollar				2,553.86				2,553.86
Delegation Expenses:*									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						416.00		416.00
Stacie Oliver:									
Qatar	Riyal		604.00						604.00
Kuwait	Dinar		692.64						692.64
Bahrain	Dinar		363.33						363.33
United States	Dollar				2,981.00				2,981.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Qatar	Riyal						153.49		153.49
David Andrew Olson:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,087.31						1,087.31
Thailand	Thai Baht		470.97						470.97
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Scott Richardson:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,042.45						1,042.45
Thailand	Thai Baht		449.92						449.92
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Jim Greene:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,246.00						1,246.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thailand	Thai Baht		470.97						470.97
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar					656.00			656.00
Thailand	Thai Baht					114.35			114.35
Michael Schiffer:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,077.33						1,077.33
United States	Dollar				2,741.86				2,741.86
Totals			30,579.52		66,935.80		17,748.03		115,263.35

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 23, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 3, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Brooke Ericson:									
United States	Dollar				959.16				959.16
United Kingdom	Pound		831.60						831.60
Daniel Lips:									
United States	Dollar				926.56				926.56
United Kingdom	Pound		803.49						803.49
Julie Klein:									
United States	Dollar				957.26				957.26
United Kingdom	Pound		855.60						855.60
Nicholas Rawls:									
United States	Dollar				957.26				957.26
United Kingdom	Pound		855.60						855.60
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound					970.00			970.00
Jose Bautista:									
United States	Dollar				3,108.36				3,108.36
Greece	Euro		884.32						884.32
China	Renminbi		1,213.09						1,213.09
Hong Kong	Dollar		902.29						902.29
Caitlin Warner:									
United States	Dollar				1,410.96				1,410.96
Greece	Euro		783.02						783.02
Jennifer Selde:									
United States	Dollar				2,470.76				2,470.76
China	Renminbi		1,114.69						1,114.69
Hong Kong	Dollar		778.85						778.85
Charles Moskowitz:									
United States	Dollar				2,470.76				2,470.76
China	Renminbi		1,076.71						1,076.71
Hong Kong	Dollar		769.63						769.63
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	Renminbi					1,878.62			1,878.62
Delegation Expenses:*									
Hong Kong	Dollar					3,147.00			3,147.00
Totals			10,868.89		13,261.08		5,995.62		30,125.59

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 20, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
United States	Dollar				21,560.26				21,560.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		402.68						402.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Christopher Mewett:									
United States	Dollar				6,087.26				6,087.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham					582.77			582.77
Pakistan	Rupee				45.38	391.63			437.01
Senator John Cornyn:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,015.89						1,015.89
Croatia	Kuna		746.81						746.81
Slovenia	Euro		312.86						312.86
Donald Bergin:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.23						339.23
Delegation Expenses:*									
Montenegro	Euro				215.87	642.40			858.27

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Croatia	Kuna				492.53		674.53		1,167.06
Slovenia	Euro				126.75		652.34		779.09
Total			5,222.42		28,528.05		2,943.67		36,694.14

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 27, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Susan Collins			981.00						981.00
			822.00						822.00
			379.64						379.64
Ryan Kaldahl			979.00						979.00
			843.51						843.51
			339.24						339.24
John Matchison			552.30						552.30
			1,389.49						1,389.49
			408.65						408.65
					15,275.76				15,275.76
Jongsun Kim			552.29						552.29
			1,381.49						1,381.49
			408.66						408.66
					15,275.76				15,275.76
Delegation Expenses *							371.90		371.90
Senator Ron Wyden			1,119.77						1,119.77
			1,343.71						1,343.71
			1,782.71						1,782.71
					12,678.26				12,678.26
Ben Widness			1,019.77						1,019.77
			1,208.10						1,208.10
			1,626.74						1,626.74
					11,702.26				11,702.26
Isaiah Akin			1,119.77						1,119.77
			1,308.10						1,308.10
			1,782.71						1,782.71
					11,736.76				11,736.76
Delegation Costs *							21,101.76		21,101.76
Ryan White			608.25						608.25
			624.83						624.83
			611.01						611.01
						15,593.18			15,593.18
Brian Walsh			608.25						608.25
			624.83						624.83
			626.01						626.01
						15,593.18			15,593.18
Delegation Expenses *							56.18		56.18
Senator Richard Burr			1,007.55						1,007.55
			860.00						860.00
					10,905.46				10,905.46
Chris Joyner			1,007.55						1,007.55
			544.00						544.00
					9,467.96				9,467.96
Christian Cook			1,007.55						1,007.55
			860.00						860.00
					9,467.06				9,467.96
Delegation Expenses *							600.00		600.00
Senator John Cornyn			412.32						412.32
			704.18						704.18
					6,977.66				6,977.66
Dave Hanke			837.54						837.54
			704.18						704.18
					6,355.16				6,355.16
Delegation Expenses *							1,735.65		1,735.65
Total			32,996.70		141,029.36		23,865.49		197,891.55

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Oct. 27, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Egypt	Pound		1,871.00						1,871.00
Greece	Euro		1,120.00						1,120.00
Belarus	Ruble		1,137.00						1,137.00
Ambassador David Kilgorn:									
Egypt	Pound		969.00						969.00
Greece	Euro		1,120.00						1,120.00
Belarus	Ruble		1,416.00						1,416.00
United States	Dollar				11,729.56				11,729.56
Paul Massaro:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Jordan Warlick:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Alex Tiersky:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Everett Price:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Bob Hand:									
Belarus	Ruble		1,988.00						1,988.00
United States	Dollar				4,294.96				4,294.96
Scott Rauland:									
Belarus	Ruble		1,704.00						1,704.00
United States	Dollar				11,419.26				11,419.26
Delegation Expenses: *									
Egypt	Pound						7,245.84		7,245.84
Greece	Euro						4,190.00		4,190.00
Belarus	Ruble						17,054.35		17,054.35
Ambassador David Killion:									
Poland	Zloty		2,646.67		9,827.46				12,474.13
Erika Schlager:									
Poland	Zloty		3,450.67		11,630.36				15,081.03
Janice Helwig:									
Poland	Zloty		3,450.67		1,114.30				4,564.97
Jordan Warlick:									
Poland	Zloty		2,646.67		9,827.46				12,474.13
Mischa Thompson:									
Poland	Zloty		2,512.67		11,748.26				14,260.93
Everett Price:									
Poland	Zloty		2,378.67		1,651.16				4,029.83
Scott Rauland:									
Poland	Zloty		2,378.67						2,378.67
Germany			1,320.31		13,323.26				14,643.57
Delegation Expenses: *									
Poland	Zloty						4,835.21		4,835.21
Germany	Euro						322.97		322.97
Erika Schlager:									
Austria	Euro		931.50		12,230.36				13,161.86
Delegation Expenses: *									
Austria	Euro						98.70		98.70
Ambassador David Killion:									
Turkey	Lira		2,096.00						2,096.00
France	Euro		1,911.00		12,943.96				14,854.96
Paul Massaro:									
Turkey	Lira		2,096.00						2,096.00
France	Euro		1,911.00		12,938.86				14,849.86
Delegation Expenses: *									
Turkey	Lira						342.27		342.27
France	Euro						3,738.00		3,738.00
Paul Massaro:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		1,720.59		10,589.66				12,310.25
Delegation Expenses: *									
Czech Republic	Koruna						40.00		40.00
Alex Tiersky:									
Belarus	Ruble		711.00		11,529.06				12,240.06
Delegation Expenses: *									
Belarus	Ruble						4.08		4.08
Janice Helwig:									
Austria	Euro		24,684.00		6,146.88				30,830.88
Total			77,727.09		152,944.82		37,871.42		268,543.33

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Oct. 17, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				9,048.96				9,048.96
France	Euro		521.00		415.50				936.50
United Kingdom	Pound		991.55						991.55
Total			1,512.55		9,464.46				10,977.01

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, Sept. 28, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				1,693.11				1,693.11
South Korea	Won		716.62				640.48		1,357.10
Japan	Yen		425.15				1,487.09		1,912.24
Total			1,141.77		1,693.11		2,127.57		4,962.45

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Oct. 18, 2017.

TSP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3031, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3031) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account, 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 bill 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 bill (H.R. 3031) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1370 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. 1370) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, 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 Johnson-McCaskill substitute amendment be considered and agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1579) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATION THROUGH THE BLUE CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 434. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘human trafficking’ means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a program, which shall be known as the ‘Blue Campaign’. The Blue Campaign shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Blue Campaign shall be to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary, working through the Director, shall, in accordance with subsection (e)—

“(1) issue Department-wide guidance to appropriate Department personnel;

“(2) develop training programs for such personnel;

“(3) coordinate departmental efforts, including training for such personnel; and

“(4) provide guidance and training on trauma-informed practices to ensure that human trafficking victims are afforded prompt access to victim support service providers, in addition to the government assistance required under section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105), to address their immediate and long-term needs.

“(e) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—The Blue Campaign shall provide guidance and training to appropriate Department personnel and other Federal, State, tribal, and law enforcement personnel, as appropriate regarding—

“(1) programs to help identify instances of human trafficking;

“(2) the types of information that should be collected and recorded in information technology systems utilized by the Department to help identify individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking;

“(3) systematic and routine information sharing within the Department and among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies regarding—

“(A) individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking; and

“(B) patterns and practices of human trafficking;

“(4) techniques to identify suspected victims of trafficking along the United States border and at airport security checkpoints;

“(5) methods to be used by the Transportation Security Administration and personnel from other appropriate agencies—

“(A) to train employees of the Transportation Security Administration to identify suspected victims of trafficking; and

“(B) to serve as a liaison and resource regarding human trafficking prevention to appropriate State, local, and private sector aviation workers and the traveling public;

“(6) utilizing resources, such as indicator cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, posters, brochures, and radio and television campaigns—

“(A) to educate partners and stakeholders; and

“(B) to increase public awareness of human trafficking;

“(7) leveraging partnerships with State and local governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking; and

“(8) any other activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the Blue Campaign.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following:

“Sec. 434. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign.”.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance required under section 434(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, the integration of information technology systems utilized within the Department to record and track information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status and effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign; and

(2) provides a recommendation regarding the appropriate office within the Department of Homeland Security for the Blue Campaign.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$819,000 to carry out section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2.

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

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 1370), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for debate only until 11 a.m., at which point the Senate proceed to executive session and consideration of the Gibson nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois.

WISHING SENATOR PAUL WELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me first say at the outset that many of us have extended well wishes to our colleague, Senator PAUL, who was injured over the weekend. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he returns soon. He is an important part of the Senate and an important colleague to those of us on both sides of the aisle.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday there was another gun massacre and horrible circumstances. I know the Presiding Officer came to the floor earlier today to say a word about his feelings and the feelings of his family. They are shared by all of us. It is heartbreaking to think that some person so demented, so unusual would come into a worship setting and kill innocent people.

Yesterday, in Sutherland Springs, Texas, at least 26 people were killed and 20 others were wounded when a gunman opened fire in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church. The reported shooter, Devin Kelley, used an assault rifle to commit this mass murder. The victims range in age from 18 months to 77 years. About a dozen of those who were killed were children, including the daughter of the church's pastor. This is heartbreaking. Our nation grieves for the victims and their loved ones.

The shooter reportedly drove up to the church wearing a bulletproof vest and tactical gear, and he began firing in the parking lot before entering the church. At some point, a local resident who lived near the church began firing back. The shooter then drove off, with two residents in pursuit, eventually crashing his car. He was found dead from a gunshot wound, which may have been self-inflicted.

President Trump and others have said that this exchange of fire with citizens responding saved lives and shows that the policy response to the shooting should be to arm more good guys with guns. Let us not forget that 46 people were shot before these citizens came on the scene.

This reported shooter, 26 years old, had served in the U.S. Air Force from 2010 until 2014, working on logistics readiness. In 2012 he was court-martialed for two counts of assault on his then-wife and child. He was sentenced to confinement for 12 months. He received a bad conduct discharge in 2014. He remarried in 2014, and had worked as an unarmed security guard at a water park. He reportedly bought four guns, one each year from 2014 to 2017, and three of those weapons—the assault rifle that he used in this crime and two handguns—were found at the scene.

Local law enforcement said that the shooter was likely motivated by a domestic situation. His wife's grandmother was one of the victims.

There are so many things that come to mind. First and foremost is the grief and sorrow we all feel for the families who were affected. It is so sad that when people go to church on Sunday, they are not safe from gun violence and gun massacres, which are occurring way too frequently across the United States. Just over two years ago, nine people were killed by a gunman in the Charleston Emanuel AME Church. And just last month we saw the worst mass shooting in modern American history in Las Vegas, with 58 people murdered and over 500 wounded. In Chicago, at least 29 people were shot, five fatally, over this past weekend.

There are things that we need to do, and that only we can do in Congress, to make the laws better and safer.

I respect the Second Amendment. I respect the fact that there are men and women in my family, friends, and people I represent across Illinois who own guns and use them safely and respon-

sibly. We have sportsmen and hunters in my family. We have people who buy guns for sporting purposes and for self-defense. They store the guns carefully and safely. They take very seriously that they are dealing with a deadly weapon. They don't want anyone innocent to be hurt. I respect that very much. I think we all should. But I also call on them now. They need to lead us into a more sensible policy when it comes to gun safety.

Owners of firearms, overwhelmingly, when asked, believe we should have comprehensive background checks to keep guns out of the hands of those who misuse them. Overwhelmingly, a majority of gun owners feel that way, as most Americans feel. Why can't we do that? We certainly know it is within our power.

In my State of Illinois, in the city of Chicago, we are approaching 600 homicides this year—600—most of them from gunfire. It is heartbreaking. That doesn't include those who were injured by being shot as well. Where are these guns coming from? There are no gun stores in the city of Chicago. That is true. But when it comes to purchasing guns, it makes no difference. The suburbs have plenty of gun dealers. Of course, there are gun shows in neighboring States, like Indiana. We also know gun stores in the suburbs of Chicago supply 25 percent of the identified crime guns. We know many of those are sold in what is known as a straw purchase. They are sold to someone who buys a gun for someone who is not legally qualified. It is a girlfriend or someone who buys a gun because she has no criminal record so her boyfriend can use it—misuse it—and kill innocent people. Can't we toughen that law and make sure there are real penalties for straw purchases? That is not going to slow down any legitimate gun owner or anyone who wants to use a gun in a responsible fashion. That is one thing we can do.

Then there is the gun show loophole. We know, with Columbine and other places, that it was a gun show loophole that opened the way for the purchase of guns that killed innocent people. Let's do something about that. We should. If we are serious, we should.

We also know that the 1996 Lautenberg amendment prohibits convicted domestic abusers from buying or using guns. That applies, as well, to military personnel. Questions need to be asked and answered about this shooter in Texas and what happened after he was court-martialed for domestic abuse in the Air Force in 2012. How did he purchase a gun after that, in violation of the Lautenberg amendment?

We need to also ask why in the world anyone needs to own an assault weapon. I understand people buy rifles and shotguns and even handguns for sporting and self-defense. But why does anyone need to own a military-style weapon—one that can be converted, as we found in Las Vegas, to a weapon that discharges 100 rounds in 7 seconds?

That is totally unnecessary for any legitimate legal purpose. It is available, perhaps, for military use, perhaps, for law enforcement but not for the ordinary American citizen who would purchase and own a gun for legitimate purposes.

Next, we need to make sure that we understand why gun violence is growing in America. The number of people who have been killed or injured just grows by the year. It is getting worse. According to a CDC report issued just last week, gun deaths increased for the second year in a row last year. There were more than 38,000 gun deaths in 2016, up from 36,000 in 2015 and from 33,500 the year before that. We are experiencing a public health crisis of gun violence in America, according to the American Medical Association.

Of course, there is no single law or policy that would prevent every shooting death, just as there is no single law or policy that would prevent every drug overdose death. But we have to start working together, on a bipartisan basis, to bring these shooting numbers down.

We need to also talk about the issue of mental health, raised by the President in response to this tragedy in Texas. The President said:

This isn't a guns situation. . . . I think that mental health is your problem here.

Despite the fact that most violence in the United States has nothing to do with mental illness, many are arguing that mental health is really the issue. What have we done in the Senate when it comes to mental health and guns this year? Senate Republicans used the CRA to repeal a regulation that directed the Social Security Administration to share mental illness information with the background check compilation of information. There was advocacy for massive cuts to Medicaid, which would throw millions of people with mental health needs off coverage. There was an attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would have allowed insurers to refuse coverage of essential health benefits, including mental health treatment. And there was a refusal to provide additional Federal funding to help provide mental health care. We don't have a very good record this year in the Senate when it comes to taking mental illness seriously, and we should.

I will also introduce a bill that I am working on to encourage more crime-gun tracing in light of last week's crime-gun trace report from the Chicago Police Department.

We focus on terrorism and what it does to our country, and we should. That is our responsibility. Anyone who would do harm to innocent Americans—as in 9/11, killing 3,000 in that particular instance—needs to be taken extremely seriously by all of us in Congress and in the White House. Foreign sources of terrorism need to be carefully watched when it comes to our border security, when it comes to background checks, and the like. But let's

be honest. More Americans are dying from Americans killing Americans with guns than by terrorist activity. It is just as much a death as any foreign terrorist threat would be, and we need to consider it just as seriously as we do when it comes to the issues of terrorism and safety for the people of America.

Why doesn't the Congress take this up? Why don't we even have a debate? I am on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We have not had a single bill this year that addresses gun safety—not one—despite the gun violence that takes place every day and despite tragedies like this tragedy over the weekend in Sutherland Springs, TX.

Every time a terrible shooting occurs, Republican leaders in Congress say now is not the time to act. And then Congress never acts.

Congress still has not acted to close the 72-hour background check loophole that allowed the Charleston church shooter to buy his gun in 2015.

Congress has done nothing to address the bump stocks that enabled the Las Vegas shooter to turn a concert into a war zone.

Congress still hasn't even addressed the gun show loophole that allowed the Columbine shooters to commit that massacre back in 1999.

Will Congress act in response to this latest tragedy? Will the Republicans who control Congress finally stand up to the gun lobby and put legislation on the floor to bring down the number of gun deaths? Or will the Republican-controlled Congress ignore this public health crisis once again?

The Republicans in Congress are rushing to pass massive changes to our tax code in a matter of weeks, and yet they refuse to do anything to prevent the next mass shooting. If the Republicans treated this gun violence epidemic with a fraction of the urgency they are showing when it comes to cutting taxes for the wealthiest one percent and the largest corporations, we could save many lives.

I pray for the victims of gun violence in this nation, but I also pray that my colleagues will act to reduce this gun violence epidemic.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 5, 2 months ago, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration's repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, better known as DACA.

DACA provides temporary legal status to immigrant students if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks. It was renewable on a 2-year basis.

The young people protected by DACA are also known as Dreamers. They came to the United States as children. They grew up knowing only this country, believing this was their home and their future. Many of them in their

teenaged years were told quietly by a parent that their legal status was not the status of an American citizen. These kids, who grew up singing the Star Spangled Banner and pledging allegiance to the American flag, have no country.

It was 7 years ago that I sent a letter to President Obama, joined by Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. On a bipartisan basis, we asked President Obama to establish a program like the DACA Program. The President responded, and DACA has been a success. Almost 800,000 Dreamers have come forward. They have surrendered to their government the information that many of their families kept secret for years. They trusted us. They gave this information to the government and said: We want to become part of America's future, and we are willing to sign up, submit ourselves to the background check, pay our taxes, pay our filing fee, and do whatever is necessary. They trusted us. These young people who came forward and received DACA have then gone on to contribute more fully to their country. They are teachers, nurses, engineers, first responders, and servicemembers in our military.

Now, because of President Trump's announcement, the deportation clock is ticking on these young people. Beginning on March 5, 2018, not that long from now, every workday for the following 2 years approximately 1,400 Dreamers will lose their work permits and be subject to deportation. These young people who trusted our government will now, with the decision to end DACA, find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position.

When they lose their DACA protection, if they are teachers, they are forced to leave their students. If they are nurses, they are forced to leave their patients. If they are first responders, they leave their post. If they are soldiers willing to die for our country, they are forced to leave our military service.

This isn't just a looming humanitarian crisis. It is also an economic crisis. The nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reports that DACA-eligible individuals contribute an estimated \$2 billion a year in State and local taxes. The Cato Institute, a conservative operation, estimates that ending DACA and deporting DACA recipients will cost \$60 billion and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next 10 years.

Poll after poll shows overwhelming bipartisan support for these Dreamers. Even FOX News—no liberal media outlet—recently found that 79 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for Dreamers, including 63 percent of those who voted for President Trump. Sixty-three percent, or almost two out of three Trump supporters, supports a legal status for Dreamers.

The answer is clear. Congress needs to pass the Dream Act, and we need to

do it before we leave Washington, DC, for the holidays.

It was 16 years ago that I first introduced this bipartisan legislation to give a path of citizenship to these young people. In July I introduced the most recent version with my friend, LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican Senator from South Carolina.

Over the years I have come to the floor almost 100 times to tell individual stories of the Dreamers. These stories tell us what is at stake when we consider the fate of DACA and the Dream Act. Today, I want to tell you about Ha Eun Lee.

When she was 6 years old, her family came to the United States from Korea. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Here is what Ha Eun says about her childhood in the United States: "I was fortunate enough to grow up learning that diversity is encouraged and differences are not just tolerated but welcomed."

Ha Eun was a good student and committed to public service. In high school she was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Principal's Academic Achievement Award, and was an Oakland Activities Association Scholar Athlete. She was a member of the track and field team during all 4 years of high school.

Ha Eun is now a senior at the University of Michigan, majoring in English. She volunteers with the Red Cross, and she is copresident of an organization called The Supply, which raises money to help students in Nairobi, Kenya, obtain an education. As copresident, Ha Eun has expanded this organization's efforts, and they are now volunteering locally near Detroit.

Ha Eun was also a policy and programs intern for the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Center.

As Ha Eun completes her last year of college, her dream is to become a lawyer. She wrote me a letter, and here is what she said:

Although I'm legally labeled as an "alien" in this country I call home, I believe I am an American. And I believe this not solely because I live, study, work and contribute to this country, but because I believe in the

core values all Americans share as a nation: liberty, justice, and prosperity.

Ha Eun and other Dreamers have so much to contribute to our country, but without DACA or the Dream Act, they will be deported back to countries where they haven't lived since they were children. Will America be stronger if we deport people like Ha Eun? I think the answer is obvious.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator GRAHAM said: "The moment of reckoning is coming." That moment has arrived. Congress has a responsibility to do our job and make the Dream Act the law of the land before the end of the year, before we go home for the holidays; otherwise, we will bear the responsibility for forcing hundreds of thousands of talented young immigrants out of the workforce and putting them at risk of immediate deportation.

Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are interested in finding a path to get this done. I salute all of them who in good faith have offered their help. We have to focus now. We have to come together and focus.

Many of my Republican colleagues have said that we need to put in border security elements. Count me in. Let's sit down and have an honest discussion about making our borders safer and stronger. I will gladly join that conversation. I think there are many things we can agree on that will lessen the likelihood that there will be those coming across the border in the years to come.

I recently met with the head of border security, and we talked about things that might be done. There is something called a Z Portal. I didn't know about it. It is a virtual x ray machine, a low-level radiation x ray machine that can x ray vehicles and determine whether they are secreting individuals or contraband that shouldn't be allowed in this country. He talked about one particular border crossing and said: We have a Z Portal there, but it can be used on only about one out of every five vehicles. He said: I would like to have more of them.

I think he should. Why wouldn't we make that part of border security? I

said: What about other things coming into this country, other than people?

He said: One thing we are concerned about is fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a chemical that is used to enhance the addiction of heroin, and, sadly, it is deadly. Many heroin addicts die when they lace the heroin with fentanyl and inject it, so we try at the borders to stop the importation of this fentanyl from China and other countries into the United States. I asked him about it.

He said: Sadly, we don't have enough new spectrometers, which are used to test these chemicals. We need them to stop the flow of this deadly drug into our country and to protect the men and women who are doing the actual surveillance.

Isn't that something we can agree on, on a bipartisan basis, to make our borders safer, to lessen the likelihood of people dying from the opioid heroin crisis? These are things we can do together.

Somehow we haven't been able to come up with a list of particulars from the other side of what they would like to move forward on, but I am ready, willing, and determined to get this done.

We have to do this this year. There is no excuse. There are too many lives at stake, not just the 780,000 DACA individuals but all of the people whom they are helping in their lives today. They are depending on us.

We are running out of time. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this constructive and bipartisan effort.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:11 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
CHRISTOPHER PEPLER

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and life of the late Deputy Chief Christopher Pepler, who passed away on November 1, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. Pepler was a member of the Torrington Fire Department since 1999 and had served as Deputy Fire Chief. He was a beloved member of the Torrington community and a model public servant.

Deputy Chief Pepler was a Torrington native, and he dreamed of becoming a firefighter from a young age. He began volunteering with Torrington Fire Department when he was only 15, and he was hired by the Torrington Fire Department in 1999. The Department recognized his leadership and commitment to keeping the community safe, and Pepler was appointed Deputy Fire Chief in 2013.

He was an active member of the department and worked hard to support his fellow firefighters. He served as the Assistant Director of Training for the Wolcott Regional Fire School, sharing his expertise with young and aspiring firefighters. Pepler also worked on behalf of his fellow firefighters as the president of the IAFF Local 1567 prior to his appointment as Deputy Chief.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Chief Christopher Pepler brought a passion for serving his community and helping others to the Torrington Fire Department, and his work leaves a legacy of service that will inspire future generations of firefighters in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his life here today. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Lori, and all those who knew and loved Christopher.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
ELAINE ROBERTS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Elaine Roberts, who is retiring from her service to the Ohio aviation community this month.

Elaine has been a leader for Columbus, for Ohio, for the aviation industry, and for women in leadership roles in the transportation industry everywhere.

Fourteen years ago, Elaine was recruited to serve as the first ever CEO of a combined aviation authority—the passenger facility serving Columbus and Central Ohio, a dual-use freight/military facility outside Columbus, and a general aviation field.

Over the last decade and a half, she led all three with distinction and has been a catalyst

for growth at Port Columbus, overseeing a major renovation and life extension of the facility.

At Rickenbacker, our dual-use facility, she has worked with government partners at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private sector, to transform the area into one of the country's leading intermodal facilities.

International and domestic freight operations—served by rail, highways, and international aviation—help provide a livelihood to 20,000 plus residents in our area.

Elaine has been an inspiration to her fellow executives in aviation and transportation, and the region as a whole. She was nominated and selected by the White House in 2015 as a “Champion of Change” for her work at Rickenbacker.

Elaine will be missed in the region, but I join the entire Ohio community in wishing her well.

IN MEMORY OF SHADY SHORES
MAYOR OLIVE STEPHENS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Shady Shores Mayor Olive Stephens. Mayor Stephens, who passed away on October 30 at the age of 101, was known for her commitment to her family, her neighbors, and the Shady Shores community. She was a dedicated public servant who helped Shady Shores grow from a small weekend fishing and camping spot to an incorporated city with a population of more than 2,800.

An East Texas native, Mayor Stephens and her late husband moved to Shady Shores in 1956 and opened a general store. In 1963, Olive Stephens began her public service career when she volunteered to serve on the Town Council. After 10 years as a council member, she ran for higher office, and in 1973 won a successful bid to serve as the first elected mayor of Shady Shores. Mayor Stephens served her community in this capacity for almost 40 years until she retired from full time public service at the age of 94.

A pioneer of local Texas politics, Olive Stephens left a legacy of lifelong commitment to public service. We will miss her leadership and passion for her Shady Shores community and all of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MICHELE BLAKE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michele Blake, a proven leader in the Yuba City, California community with a

strong desire to make a difference. Michele currently serves as the Executive Director of the Sutter County Children and Families Commission, also known as First 5 Sutter.

Michele has been a strong advocate and was instrumental in making positive changes in her role as executive director. She is responsible for ensuring children ages 0–5 reach their full potential by administering and coordinating community programs and activities that have a positive effect on their development. She has collaborated with Friends of the Sutter Library to implement a program which delivers books directly to preschool children's homes to increase literacy awareness; she has worked with the Sutter Sheriff's Department to implement a children's lifejacket loaner program which increases water safety; and working alongside healthcare clinics, she was instrumental in implementing breastfeeding friendly practices in existing Commission programs. Michele is also a strong advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and, together with her family, established the Nicole Bull Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Michele's experience includes her previous work as the Health Education Director and Public Information Officer at the Sutter County Public Health Department where she planned, created, budgeted, developed, and implemented comprehensive health education programs and was instrumental in securing federal funding to develop IGNITE Yuba City, a program to help people make healthy choices.

Michele continues to support the Yuba Sutter community and as a single mom finds time to contribute to the activities of her 8 and 12-year-old children.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD
ANDREWS

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Arnold Andrews from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Andrews served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Andrews, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Arnold Andrews for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Friday, November 3, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 605 and Nay on Roll Call vote 606.

I was absent in the House Chamber due to travelling to the devastated island of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. A vote was called on the floor for H.R. 3922 to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program and other public health initiatives under the Affordable Care Act. I would have voted Nay on this legislation because this bill would raise premiums for seniors, limit benefits for Medicaid recipients and slash grace periods from 90 days to 30 days, which would result in thousands of Americans losing their healthcare. Furthermore, this bill funds a mere \$1 billion dollars to Puerto Rico in the midst of a dire crisis on the island.

RECOGNIZING DR. LAURIE GOODMAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Laurie Goodman of Meridian, California, who has dedicated herself to the education, health, and safety of children. As Superintendent and Principal of the Winship-Robbins Elementary School District, Dr. Goodman has worked to implement many programs designed to serve children in need. In partnership with Sutter County Public Health, she has implemented a nutrition education and obesity prevention program which aims to promote healthy eating and exercise habits in youth.

Dr. Goodman was also an instrumental partner in the effort to establish the "Food For Thought" pilot project which works to minimize child hunger by providing families with healthy foods to take home over the weekend. Her efforts on behalf of these programs make a clear positive impact in the lives of children in her community.

Dr. Goodman's passion and commitment to the students and families of Winship-Robbins Elementary School goes beyond academic success. Dr. Goodman is truly dedicated to the complete health and well-being of each and every one of her students, and never passes up an opportunity to provide them with any help they may need.

HONORING ETHEL T. WINFIELD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a late member of the Co-op City community, Mrs. Ethel T. Winfield, who passed away this year at the amazing age of 94 years

old. Though Ethel is no longer with us, the legacy she has left with her family, friends, and the community will last forever.

Ethel and her beloved husband, Claude, lived in Co-op City and were quite active. After moving to the area in the 1960's, Ethel, a devoted Catholic, was instrumental in establishing and building the new church, St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church. While the church was being built, Ethel held services in her home at 920 Baychester Avenue.

Professionally, Ethel worked as a Sample Hand at Vanity Fair in New York City. In 1971, she received certification at the prestigious Mayer School for Fashion Design. Amazed by her skill and talent, she rose from a Sample Hand to become an Assistant Designer at Vanity Fair; the first time anyone ever received this promotion. While at Vanity Fair, Ethel was concerned with equal rights of all workers. She was a shop steward, and as a union leader, she assisted fellow workers. Ethel enjoyed designing, draping and sewing dresses. She wanted her community residents to experience wearing beautiful fabrics and well-fitted clothes. She was committed to providing designer quality fitted clothing and often said, "The small amount I charged the bride did not yield a profit for me. However, I wanted my community to feel like they were walking down a runway."

Though Ethel's story is full of inspiration, there was tragedy. In July 1957, Claude and Ethel were driving to Virginia with their son, Willie. During the trip, the car over turned in a ditch. Willie lost his life and Claude was injured badly. He had sustained internal injuries and almost every bone in his body had been broken. Ethel visited her husband for 2 years in the Veteran's Administration Hospital and never doubted her husband would live. She encouraged him to complete his therapy which included learning to use his left hand and arm to shave and complete other tasks. It was her belief and encouragement in those terribly tragic moments that gave Claude the strength to recover.

As you might imagine from hearing that story, Ethel's true passion was her family, which includes sons, Claude L. Winfield, and Siddique Ali Shahbaaz; daughter-in-laws Michelle Deal Winfield and Cynthia Ali Shahbaaz; grand children Gary Winfield and wife Rasheed Winfield, Marie Winfield and spouse Konrad Pust, Michael C. Winfield, Nikkea Winfield, Jason Winfield and Makeda Winfield; nieces Katherine Miles and Vida Hinton with cousin Janett Baughaum; and great grandchildren Sophie and Koemi Winfield-Pust. She loved each of them dearly.

Ethel Winfield lived a long and blessed life. In later years, she took art classes at the Baychester Visual Arts class on Tuesday evenings. Like many budding artist, Ethel gave away sketches and drawings, making friends along the way. That was Ethel—an artist, always thinking of others.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM CAMP

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, William

Camp from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Camp served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Camp, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking William Camp for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LYNN JEWELL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lynn Jewell of Vacaville, California, who has been a vibrant servant of our community since coming from San Antonio, Texas as one of three young daughters of an Air Force Veteran. As a youth, Lynn was active in the Girl Scouts, church groups, and the Fairfield High School Scarlet Brigade Band before graduating from California State University, Sacramento with honors. After marrying Jeff Jewell, her service member husband, Lynn became active in supporting multiple local Veteran's Groups.

Mrs. Jewell served as President of the Vacaville American Legion Auxiliary, Secretary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and served at the Vacaville Veterans' Memorial Hall as secretary, treasurer, Bingo volunteer, and co-chair of the Annual Holiday Dinners for over 20 years.

In 2006, Lynn became involved in the North Bay Homeless Veterans Standdown writing grants, raising funds, and serving as volunteer coordinator. Her passionate commitment to this program grew and she now serves alongside her husband on the Standdown Board of Directors. Lynn is the driving force of the North Bay Standdown and most everyone would say that without Lynn, the years of providing supportive services to our homeless veterans in the form of a "hand-up, not a hand-out" would not have happened.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLIFTON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of the great City of Clifton as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary on November 4, 2017.

On April 26, 1917, the City of Clifton was carved out of Acquackanonk Township and incorporated by an act of the New Jersey legislature. Named after the towering cliffs of Garret Mountain, Clifton is composed of many endearing neighborhoods. They are Albion, Allwood, Athenia, Botany Village, Delawanna,

Dutch Hill, Lakeview, Main Mall, Montclair Heights, Richfield, Rosemawr, Stvertowne, West Clifton, and Yanticaw Pond. Just as Clifton's geography is diverse, so too are its citizens. Clifton's 84,136 residents speak over seventy languages and trace their heritage to all parts of the world.

Today, we thank those who played a part in the founding of the city, and those leaders who guided the city in the years that followed. Since 1934, Clifton has been governed by a City Manager and seven City Council members, one of whom is selected by his or her colleagues to be Mayor. The residents of Clifton are some of the most involved citizens, and make their voices heard by electing all members of the City Council.

Mayor James Anzaldi has served in his current position for 27 years, making him the city's longest tenured mayor. His love for his hometown and dedication to public service set remarkable examples for all Cliftonites to follow.

Students at Clifton High School boast their "Mustang Pride" in the classroom and at competitions throughout the North Jersey area. Mustang varsity sports teams have won multiple state championships throughout the decades, and the Mustang Band has been dazzling crowds since the 1930s. The band has earned such a reputation that it has been nicknamed, "The Showband of the Northeast."

The City of Clifton has been essential to the growth and development of Passaic County and the State of New Jersey overall. After the closure of the Morris Canal in 1924, Clifton began a mission to rapidly modernize. Over the next few decades, shopping centers, hotels, roads, and other vital infrastructure were built at a remarkable rate. By 1952, Clifton was designated as New Jersey's fastest growing city. The city continues to champion economic progress and development today.

It is my great honor to represent the residents of Clifton in the United States Congress. This is a city where people work hard to support their families, improve their community, and honor their history. When I visit my neighbors in Clifton, I never cease to be inspired by acts of ingenuity, compassion, and good will. I can always count on Cliftonites to be some of the friendliest constituents in my district, and the country as a whole.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet little compares to recognizing and commemorating 100 years of rich history in Clifton, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues in celebrating 100 years of service, dedication, and excellence from the residents of Clifton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUFFY HEALTH CENTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the Duffy Health Center.

The Duffy Health Center has been serving as Barnstable County's primary health care provider for homeless adults since 1997. What started as a small volunteer organization in

1988 has now turned into a major pillar of this community, working to serve the homeless men and women of Cape Cod.

This clinic is made up of an incredible group of people that are working tirelessly to better the Ninth Congressional District. Over the past twenty years they have helped those suffering from addiction, mental health issues, and other serious medical problems find their way to applying for master's degrees, retaining full-time employment, and building new lives. They have provided vital assistance to people trying to apply for benefits, receive counseling, or find a support group.

By treating people with dignity and respect, the hope they have restored in countless members of our community is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the 20th anniversary of the Duffy Health Center for their dedication to bettering their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their invaluable service and wishing them all the best in the many years to come.

RECOGNIZING MS. MIRIAM MILLER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Miriam Miller of Woodland, California, who has spent many years serving her community and truly loves volunteering. In years past, Ms. Miller has worked to revitalize the Woodland Downtown area through a program called "Main Street" and helped facilitate renovations to the Woodland Opera House State Historic Park. While working to bring Woodland's facilities into the future, she also worked to ensure her community never lost sight of its history. Ms. Miller was instrumental in the running of the Yolo County Historical Museum, worked as a docent at the museum and historical Opera House, helped others research their own history, and to this day still helps put out the Woodland Historical Society newsletter. If there was an opportunity to serve the Woodland community, Miriam Miller seized it.

Ms. Miller's service and volunteerism was not limited to her community of Woodland. She traveled the world with her husband as he served in the U.S. Navy and State Department, supporting him and caring for her family. During World War II, Ms. Miller became very aware of the injustice of Japanese internment camps, leading her to live a life in support of immigrants and social justice. Ms. Miller has housed refugees in her home and made them a part of her family. She continues to fight for immigrant and refugee rights. Ms. Miller is dedicated to the betterment of her community, locally, nationally, and internationally.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSSELL COBLE

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Russell

Coble from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Coble served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Coble, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Russell Coble for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SRUTHI SRINIVASAN

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I remember and honor the life of Sruthi Srinivasan who unexpectedly passed away on October 24th this year at the young age of 34.

So many people knew Sruthi's passion for design and her amazing ability to dance. Sruthi's laugh, smile and warm soul could light up a room. She was easy to love and will be missed beyond measure, not only in the community of Downer's Grove, but across the nation.

Sruthi was known as an incredible designer at her work with Ted Moudis in New York and was successful in the variety of roles that she had in the design industry. She was generous, kind, and her spirit was infectious.

The Srinivasans and my family have known each other for decades, and they are all cherished friends. Mr. Speaker, I hope we might all keep in our thoughts and prayers the Srinivasan family and friends as they mourn their loss. In that spirit, I celebrate Sruthi's life and think about what an impact that life made on so many people.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM M. FLY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, William M. Fly will celebrate his 100th birthday in a newly refurbished home thanks to the selfless efforts of volunteers from across the country, responding to the damages caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Over the course of a century, Bill, as his friends and family know him, has traveled the country and the world, but his home has always been in the State of Texas.

Following his graduation from the University of Texas in 1940, Bill joined the U.S. Army Air Force, where he served honorably as a First Lieutenant in the European Theater of the Second World War.

Upon completing his time in the service, Bill and his wife, Mary Beth, moved to Houston, TX, where he began a thirty-seven year career in the oil and gas industry. Despite moving to

New York City, Chicago, and St. Louis during his career, Bill and his wife of sixty-nine years returned to Texas in 1972, to settle in Harris County.

Blessed with four loving daughters, eleven grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren, Bill and his loving wife lived together for another forty-five years, until Mary Beth passed away on May 13th, 2017.

In August of 2017, the flooding brought by Hurricane Harvey left over three feet of water in Bill's family home of over forty years, severely damaging his house and ruining irreplaceable mementos of his and Mary Beth's family.

In response to this tragedy, volunteers led by former Navy SEAL, Markus Luttrell and his wife, Melanie, rallied around Bill and made it their mission to rebuild his home by his 100th birthday.

Just two months after the effort began, people from across the country raised almost \$90,000, \$15,000 more than their original goal, to fund the recovery. Thanks to the tireless efforts of these volunteers, Bill will be able to return to his home by his birthday.

As he settles into his newly refurbished home to celebrate his 100th birthday, I join Bill's family, his friends, and his community to thank the volunteers who quickly returned him to his home and wish him a happy birthday as he begins his second century of life.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN RAMOS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathleen Ramos, who has been a vibrant leader in the community since arriving in Vacaville, California with her young family in 1986. She quickly fell in love with the charm, generosity and spirit of Vacaville and immediately decided she would devote her time and talent to making Vacaville a great place to raise a family.

Kathleen's passion to help others is evident through her community and public service. Throughout her two decades as a top realtor for Solano County, she's helped countless families find the home of their dreams. Her desire to help the community didn't stop there; Kathleen has held leadership roles in thirteen boards and commissions, including serving five consecutive terms as president and past vice-chair on the Community Services Commission for the City of Vacaville. She also volunteers in student education programs, was past president for the Solano Community Symphony League and is a Charter Member for 100 Women Who Care About Solano County and the Vacaville Soroptimists Twilight Club.

Kathleen is married to her husband Steve; together they have three adult children and six granddaughters. She enjoys an active lifestyle and when she's not helping in the community, you can find her on the bike trails or racquetball courts.

HONORING KATHLEEN GILSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true community servant and long-time pillar of the Riverdale Community Center, Ms. Kathleen Gilson. Kathleen has worked at RCC since 1982, rising through the ranks from Administrative Assistant all the way up to Executive Director. She has done it all at RCC and this year, after 35 years of service to her community, she is celebrating her retirement.

In 1985, three years into her career at RCC, Kathleen became the Fiscal Officer and the Director of Finance and Program Operations by 1997. Then, in 2004, she became the Center's Executive Director. During her tenure as the Executive Director, RCC programs and budgets have tripled, serving over 1,000 people of all ages each year in their free youth programs and Adult and Youth Education Center. Kathleen has overseen an RCC after school program that has become one of the most successful free programs in New York City—receiving “Excellent” ratings from all funders and identified as “Exemplary.” Kathleen was also quite active outside her work life. She served on her local school board for 13 years, eight as the president, and is currently president of her homeowners' association.

Of course, Kathleen's true passion is her family. She is happily married with three children, and two grandchildren. She currently lives in Orange County, though she is a former Bronxite herself.

Kathleen Gilson has been instrumental to the success of RCC, and its amazing growth can be directly linked to her efforts, in addition to the efforts of her team. I want to congratulate Kathleen on her decades of service and thank her for all the incredible work she has done for Riverdale residents. I hope she enjoys a well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY DUNCAN

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Jerry Duncan from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Duncan served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Duncan, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Jerry Duncan for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on October 31 and November 1, 2017. Had I been present for the following roll call votes:

H.R. 2521—South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017—I would have voted Yea on to allow South Carolina the ability to appoint members to the Peanut Standards Board.

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936—I would have voted no because this motion prevented proceeding to debate a problematic forestry bill, and allowed Congress to debate and vote on the Dream Act to protect DREAMers.

H. Res. 595—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2936—Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017—I would have opposed this rule because it only allowed debate of seven amendments, and blocked the consideration of 10 germane amendments. This rule does not maintain regular order I strive for.

RECOGNIZING MICHALLE SHOWN-RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michalle Shown-Rodriguez of Fairfield, California, who has dedicated her career to community service and is a pillar of the community. Michalle currently serves as the Development Director for Child Haven, where she brings 30 years of experience in development, grant writing, and executive leadership.

Michalle's work with non-profits began with the birth of her son and subsequent involvement in co-founding a support organization in Idaho that served families with medically fragile children. She has been involved with the National Foster Parents Association, the Sierra Association of Foster Families and Ronald McDonald House Charities. Being an adoptive parent of four elementary school-age children, she had a passion to serve in an education-focused environment where she can have a direct impact on children and their parents.

Michalle's previous experience includes working for the Crisis Support Services of Alameda County where she was responsible for developing programs to support suicide prevention, crisis intervention and public education. Ms. Shown-Rodriguez holds a degree in social psychology and earned the Non-Profit Certificate at Stanford Graduate School of Business' Center for Social Innovation among other professional credentials.

HONORING JASPER COUNTY
VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of Vietnam veterans from my district. I stand to thank the Jasper County Vietnam Veterans for their honorable service to our great nation.

While serving, these patriots fought for, protected, and renewed the liberties and values upon which our great country was founded; fundamental values and freedoms that make our country the greatest nation on earth. The Jasper County Vietnam Veterans group works to honor all of those that have served.

It is a privilege and honor to represent the fine Jasper County Vietnam Veterans, along with all the veterans in Iowa's second district.

HONORING RACHEL RADNA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a member of the Riverdale Temple community, Dr. Rachel Levi Radna, who this year is being honored by the Temple at their annual Gala Dinner.

Rachel was born in Tel Aviv, Israel. She moved to the United States with her family when she was 12 years old. Rachel attended George Washington High School and then Hunter College in the Bronx for her undergraduate degree. She went to CUNY for her doctoral degree in Biochemistry. While at Hunter, she met her husband, Dr. Richard Radna, with whom she has three wonderful children, Rudolph, Rebeka, and Raphael. She recently became a grandmother to Rebeka's baby son, Julian Avi. Rather than pursuing a career in Biochemistry, Rachel managed her husband's Neurosurgical Practice, as it allowed her to take care of her family. Rachel's family is the legacy that she has created, and they are her true pride and joy.

Rachel was not a regular worshiper until she started to go to services at Riverdale Temple. There was something at Riverdale Temple that sparked a light in her that continues to shine. She went from congregant to member of the Board of Directors, and she has been the President of the Congregation for the past 10 years. With such continuity, Rachel is the glue that seems to keep the Temple held together. She has worked closely with Rabbi Lewis and, most recently, Rabbi Gardner. When the clergy are on vacation in the summer, Rachel coordinates and leads lay-led services, at which she often functions as both Rabbi and Cantor.

Aside from her involvement in Riverdale Temple, Rachel loves to knit, bake, and cook. She enjoys opera, karaoke, Israeli music and dancing. Her favorite part of being President is being on the Bimah during these past 10 years and watching our religious school children grow to become B'nai Mitzvah. She is also the co-President of the Riverdale Temple, a wonderful honor in and of itself.

Rachel has done so much for our community and is most deserving of this recognition. Congratulations to her on receiving this great honor.

RECOGNIZING MRS. RENEE
TADLOCK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Renee Tadlock of Fairfield, California, who is the Operations Director of The Leaven, a faith-based afterschool tutoring and mentorship program focused on serving the underserved youth in our high-risk communities with educational assistance, physical play, nutrition, and character development. Before becoming the Operations Director, Renee was a Leaven Site Director and served to help grow the Leaven Organization from one center in 2009 to sixteen different locations throughout Solano and Napa Counties and three sites in Southern California with more scheduled to open soon.

Mrs. Tadlock's role at the Leaven has been vital to the organization's success and secondary positive impact of raising the quality of life within each neighbor served by a Leaven Center. Recognized by community leaders and law enforcement officials, Leaven Centers through their development of community relationships have proven over and over to positively impact crime rates, drive out negative influences, and empower residents to participate in neighborhood watch and re-vitalization programs.

Renee developed her passion for education and serving our youth during her prior service as a pre-school teacher in Fairfield and a substitute para-teacher for Solano County Office of Education. Renee and her husband, Mike, serve as Pastors at Real Life Church in Fairfield where she also serves as an inspiring role-model to the church, youth group, and community members.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVA INGRAM
FORTUNE

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Reva Ingram Fortune from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Air Force veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mrs. Fortune served her country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mrs. Fortune, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with her family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Reva Ingram Fortune for

her dedicated service to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING KEISER
UNIVERSITY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keiser University on the commemoration of their 40th anniversary, which they will celebrate on November 10, 2017.

Keiser University was founded in 1977 by Dr. Arthur Keiser and his mother Mrs. Evelyn Keiser, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. By establishing Keiser University, Dr. Keiser and Evelyn sought to provide individuals the necessary educational tools for successfully navigating their chosen careers.

Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has been a shining example of what one can achieve through hard work and dedication. It has grown to become the third largest not-for-profit university in Florida, bolstering 66,000 alumni, over 100 degree granting programs, and 18 campuses across the state. Keiser University has even stretched beyond U.S. borders, establishing campuses abroad in Nicaragua, Moldova, and China.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have watched Keiser University grow and expand its reach. Today, it has an annual economic impact of approximately \$3 billion in Florida, while benefiting our residents with over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs each year.

Keiser University's philosophy of putting students first and treating them as individuals is to be commended. Their diverse student body includes veterans, first-generation students, parents, caregivers, and students who have already joined the workforce. Keiser University provides the skills necessary for students to be successful within our global economy, while maintaining flexibility through an impressive online curriculum, which allows non-traditional students the ability to access the quality education they rightly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Keiser University's co-founders and family, Dr. Arthur Keiser, his mother Mrs. Evelyn Keiser, and Ms. Belinda Keiser, and the independent Keiser University Board of Trustees, for their enduring commitment to providing students with a superior education. Over the past 40 years, Keiser University has proven itself to be a home for quality higher education, and a source of great pride to the people of Florida. I am truly honored to represent Keiser University in my Congressional district, and wish them many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING MS. LOUISE
WALKER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Louise Walker of Dixon, California, who has been a strong leader in her roles in both private and public organizations.

She consistently proves that she does not shy away from leadership roles. She is a valued partner of the Solano Economic Development Corporation, President and CEO of First Northern Bank. She serves as chairperson of the Solano EDC Board of Directors, and just completed her term as Chair of the California Bankers Association, making her the third woman to chair the association in the organizations 125 years. Ms. Walker also serves on the national Board of Directors for the American Banker Association.

Ms. Walker also lends her considerable leadership expertise to several nonprofit organizations. She serves on the boards for both Valley Vision and the Yolo Food Bank, is a former President of Soroptimist International of Dixon, and a member of the Dixon Rotary Club. With her extensive leadership experience and skills, as well as her commitment to serving her community, Ms. Walker is an outstanding role model for women of every age.

RECOGNIZING ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WOODHAVEN, QUEENS ON THEIR 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize All Saints' Episcopal Church of Woodhaven, Queens on their 120th Anniversary. This longstanding place of worship has a rich history as a congregation that embraces diversity and community service.

All Saints held its first service and Sunday school at a store-front in Richmond Hill, Queens on November 26, 1897. Initial offerings collected by the service totaled \$22.00, which became the initial contribution towards the purchase of a permanent church. A few years later, the church laid its first cornerstone on Lefferts Blvd., where it served for more than a century.

The Church has a long history of providing guidance and comfort to new arrivals and families faced with hardship. For decades, All Saints enjoyed the leadership of Rectors dedicated to its parishioners and the greater community. Later on, the former St. Matthew's Church, a beautiful gothic revival building became its new home.

Today, All Saints is a bedrock of the Woodhaven community. The Church continues to provide spiritual and physical comfort by offering social and community services. Initiatives like the senior lunch program, youth projects, the St. Hilda's Guild women's outreach program, and the Community Cemetery Project all promote fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, our churches, temples, and mosques are the cornerstones of our communities, the bedrock on which our faith, values, and sense of purpose rest. On this special occasion of its 120th year anniversary, I congratulate the All Saints Episcopal Church congregation and wish them many more years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES JACKSON GAILEY

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, James Jackson Gailey from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Navy veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Gailey served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Gailey, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking James Jackson Gailey for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NANCY WELLS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Wells of Davis, California, who has dedicated her twenty-year career to education and exemplifies the true meaning of public servant, volunteer and advocate for school aged children, adults and senior citizens in the community.

Nancy was instrumental in implementing many innovative programs during her professional career. She instituted "Just for Kids," a program that matched at risk elementary students with adult volunteers, who would spend time helping students having difficulties with school subjects. She also started the "Latch Key Program" an afterschool program that provided a place for students to do their homework in a safe environment while their parents were at work. As director of Special Education, she was able to provide outstanding programs for children with special needs offering them academic training at a level in which they would be successful.

Nancy is also involved in various community organizations. She was a founding member of the Dixon Family Services agency, where she started a Grief Intervention Program for children. She's also a member of the Dixon Advocates for Seniors as well as a member of Dixon's Community Care Home Auxiliary.

Nancy is considered a kind, compassionate and devoted person who is always willing to volunteer wherever she is needed. Nancy serves on the St. Peter's parish leadership team and is a long-time community servant.

BALFOUR DECLARATION

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the significance it played in the formation of the state of Israel.

This significant sixty seven word statement, that came to be known as the Balfour Declaration, was the stepping stone in the reformation of a modern Jewish sovereign state. It was the first public recognition addressing the need to recognize the rebirth of a national home for the Jewish people and their historical link to the land of Israel. This concept was later reaffirmed by the international community at the Treaty of Sevres, San Remo, League of Nations and United Nations. This declaration represented the Jewish peoples' strong desire to return to their eternal homeland. This deep passion gave the Zionist movement widespread international recognition that few movements have ever seen.

In 1922, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution, the Lodge-Fish Resolution, which committed the United States' support of the establishment of a Jewish State, by reproducing the exact text of the Balfour Declaration.

Mr. Speaker, Israel has since become one of the United States' greatest allies and hopefully the bond between our two great nations will only continue to grow stronger.

IN RECOGNITION OF WALTER SIMMONS

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Walter Simmons from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Simmons served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Simmons, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Walter Simmons for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MS. PATRICIA ZETAH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Patricia Zetah of Vacaville,

California, who has dedicated many years to the public education system, continuing to volunteer after her retirement. Ms. Zetah retired as a school principal from Travis Unified School District, having worked as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, program manager, and vice principal. During her time as a teacher, Ms. Zetah went above and beyond what was required of her. She served as a mentor to many new teachers and provided professional development workshops for others throughout the district and state. She served as President and board member of the Solano County Reading Association and to this day volunteers giving reading tests at Center Elementary School.

Ms. Zetah currently serves as President of the local chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators, where she organizes charitable programs to benefit children's education. For the past seven years she has worked with St. Mary's Church and Vacaville Unified School District to put on Education Forums where participating children receive free books. Ms. Zetah is so devoted to this project that she has donated hundreds of her own books.

Through both her career and her volunteer work, Patricia Zetah has demonstrated her dedication to children's education.

TRIBUTE TO PAT GREGG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat Gregg of Council Bluffs, Iowa who recently retired from the Council Bluffs Fire Department after 25 years of service to his community. Pat joined the Council Bluffs Fire Department on August 31, 1992.

Council Bluffs Fire Chief Justin James said, "Pat was one of the first firefighters I promoted to Captain when I became Chief, because his patient care always went the extra mile." Pat served as a paramedic and firefighter during his career. Pat said he has seen many changes in the Fire Department through the years but one thing that did not change was that the men and women of the Fire Department are still dedicated to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat has made a difference by helping and serving others and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this momentous occasion and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB WILLIAMS AND RANCH HANDS RESCUE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Williams and the non-profit animal rescue and counseling center he founded as Ranch Hands Rescue in Argyle, Texas.

Founded in 2008, Ranch Hands Rescue came to life as an outcome of a year-long recovery from a debilitating stroke Bob had suffered. With his background as a Motorola executive and a challenging recovery process, Bob was inspired with the recognition of the need for rescuing animals that would otherwise be euthanized. Rescuing the worst-of-the worst farm animal abuse and neglect cases, Ranch Hands Rescue was initially envisioned as a place that would provide a loving, caring and safe sanctuary to the animals that cannot be adopted due to special care needs.

Through his own experience with the rescued animals, Bob realized the therapeutic impact they could also have on mental health. In 2010 he started the Ranch Hands Rescue Equine and Animal Assisted Counseling (EEAC) program. Through the work of animal partners and Licensed Professional Counselors, Ranch Hands Rescue provides hope and healing for children, women, veterans and others suffering from painful mental health symptoms brought on by sexual assault, physical abuse, domestic violence, and other traumatic life experiences. In relating with the trauma experienced by the rescued animals at Ranch Hands Rescue, clients of the non-profit from across the entire Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex benefit from the unique trauma-informed animal assisted psychotherapy provided by highly-trained Licensed Professional Counselors.

Thanks to the commitment and ongoing passion for rescuing abused and neglected farm animals that would otherwise be considered "throw aways," Ranch Hands Rescue is "animals helping people and people helping animals" to provide a special sanctuary for healing in the heart of Texas 26th Congressional District.

HONORING LANDON VRANES

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Landon Vranes, a 10-year-old Albuquerque student who represents the spirit of learning and innovation. As a 5th grade student, Landon has dedicated much of his time learning about, and building robots.

Landon recently built a robot that is able to solve any combination of the popular Rubik's Cube puzzle. His creation was part of a class project led by Albuquerque Public Schools teacher, Ms. Amy Nevitt. Landon's robot was featured during recent TV news broadcasts, which highlighted his passion for technology and robotics.

During an interview with KOB-4, Landon explained, "Any scramble out of the 43 quintillion can be solved in 20 moves or less and it's trying to find out the quickest possibility."

As the home to three federal research laboratories and distinguished research universities, New Mexico has a reputation for fostering innovation and exploration. It is my hope that students like Landon Vranes continue to have opportunities to thrive and succeed in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Landon on this achievement and wish him all the best in his future scientific endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TONI URBAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Toni Urban, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Almost 50 years ago, Toni and her husband Tim decided to plant their roots in Des Moines. During that time Toni has been a leader in the greater Des Moines area, volunteering her time and talents to organizations she believes in. Her most recent volunteer work has been on the board of the Food Bank of Iowa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combatting food insecurity across the entire state of Iowa. They are currently working to expand their operations, and Toni has taken a lead role in raising the \$8 million dollars necessary to upgrade their facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Toni in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for receiving this esteemed designation, thank those at Business Record for their great work, and in wishing Toni nothing but the best.

HONORING JOSEPH M. MCDADE

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman Joseph McDade, who passed away on September 24, 2017, at the age of 85.

Mr. McDade, a Republican, represented Pennsylvania's 10th district from January 3, 1963 to January 3, 1999, the same district that I have the honor of representing.

Mr. McDade served on the House Appropriations Committee, where he served as the vice chairman of the full committee, and chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania and went on to graduate from the University of Notre Dame and received his LLB from the University of Pennsylvania. He founded his own law practice in 1957 and was elected Scranton City Solicitor in 1962.

Mr. McDade worked tirelessly to bring federal resources to northeast Pennsylvania, create jobs, improve the environment, and to improve education. Most notably, Mr. McDade was pivotal in establishing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as well as the creation of the Steamtown National Historic Site.

Mr. McDade was a tremendous public servant and advocate who had a positive impact on thousands of people. He dedicated 36

years of his life to represent Pennsylvanians in this chamber and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our former colleague, Joseph McDade, for his service and accomplishments. He will be missed.

HONORING ANTHONY CHAVEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism and bravery of Albuquerque native, Anthony Chavez, also known as the "Red Hat Hero". He helped five women escape gun fire during the deadly attack in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 1, 2017.

Chavez was among thousands in the crowd at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival when a gunman fired at the crowd from the 32nd floor of the nearby Mandalay Bay Casino and Hotel. Chavez did not hesitate to help the women who were standing near him.

He made a selfless and courageous decision to help his significant other and four strangers over the fence in front of them so they could retreat to safety. Without his help, it is likely that the women would not have gotten out unharmed.

Chavez then stayed in the area for an additional hour, helping direct people to ambulances and safe locations. He won't refer to himself as a hero, but it is undeniably clear that without his help many could have been injured or killed.

Chavez was dubbed the "Red Hat Hero" because one of the women he saved recognized his unique, red Albuquerque Dukes hat in a photo on social media.

Chavez was one of many heroes during an otherwise tragic night in Las Vegas. As such, he deserves our gratitude for his actions.

TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY MENKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tiffany Menke, president of the Urbandale Iowa Chamber of Commerce, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavours throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Tiffany has spent her life dedicating her time and talents to serving others. It all began during her time in customer service and as vice president of marketing and tourism for the Newton Chamber of Commerce. She oversaw a number of areas and projects while in Newton, helping lead them down a path of sustained success. After Tiffany's time in Newton she moved on to serve as president of the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce for the past

13 years. Her talents and abilities have been instrumental in tripling the chamber's membership, making it one of the best in the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Tiffany in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community, and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Tiffany on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and in wishing Tiffany nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF BURNETTA SLOSS-TANNER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a dynamic political activist, Burnetta Sloss-Tanner, who passed away on October 23, 2017. She was my confidant, drill instructor, surrogate, auntie, war time general and tireless campaigner. She was a dear friend to me and my family and a friend to Hoosiers everywhere, especially the powerless.

"Ms. Burnetta", known for her trademark sequined hat, was a pillar in Democratic politics throughout Indianapolis. She long served as the 4th Ward Chair for the Marion County Democratic Party and had a deep love for grassroots politics, holding monthly meetings in her home to train candidates, elected officials, and volunteers on strategy and mobilizing our community. Without Ms. Burnetta, neither me, nor my grandmother, Congresswoman Julia Carson, would have been elected to Congress. I am certain many local and state elected officials can credit her for their successes as well.

Not only was Ms. Burnetta a legend in political circles, she was also beloved by the community. She worked with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, the Center Township Trustee's office, and countless other organizations.

She was a woman of great faith with a passion for gospel music. She studied under several notable gospel artists, mentored countless others, and was a founding member and director of the award winning Jordan-Aires Gospel Choir. She will always be remembered for her work as a gospel radio personality, hosting The Heartbeat of Good Gospel Music on WTLC. Her passion for, and contributions to, gospel music earned her the title of "The First Lady of Gospel Music" of Indianapolis.

Ms. Burnetta served as a source of change, strength and faith for so many, leaving a lasting impression on generations to come. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to know her.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our beloved Burnetta Sloss-Tanner for her remarkable service to the City of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF NOLAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeff Nolan, of Winterset, Iowa for being named the Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year at this year's Madison County Chamber Banquet.

The Business Person of the Year award is given out annually to a member of the community who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the economy and the business climate of Madison County. Jeff exemplifies that commitment and has worked tirelessly to improving the lives of all residents of Madison County, whether it was his work as President of Union State Bank or his service to the community. He also volunteers his time to the local hospital board, the Chamber Ambassadors and the Greater Madison County Community Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am proud to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jeff for this outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING ALEX BREGMAN

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albuquerque's Alex Bregman for his stand-out performance in the 2017 World Series. Bregman's heroics on the baseball diamond helped the Houston Astros win its first World Series in franchise history. Alex also made his hometown and the state of New Mexico proud as he fulfilled his childhood dream and showed the entire world the value of hard work.

Bregman's baseball talent was the stuff of legend in Albuquerque, where he played for Albuquerque Academy. During his sophomore year at the Academy, Bregman was named USA Baseball Player of the Year.

Bregman took his talent to Louisiana State University, where he played baseball with the Tigers from 2013 to 2015.

The Astros drafted Bregman as the 2nd Overall pick in the 2015 Major League Baseball Draft. He quickly rose through the Astros system and during his first full year in the Major Leagues, Bregman hit .284 with 19 home runs and 71 RBI.

In the World Series, Bregman produced 5 runs, 7 hits, 2 home runs, 5 RBI and a stolen base. He produced his biggest moment in what may be the most exciting game in the history of the World Series. With the score tied in the bottom of the 10th inning, Bregman hit a walk-off, RBI single that gave the Astros a pivotal, 13-12 win and the momentum they rode to the championship.

While his offensive prowess contributed to the team's record-breaking statistical performance, Bregman's brilliant defense helped give

the Astros an edge throughout the playoffs. He made several critical plays at third base, including an aggressive catch and throw to home plate in Game 4 to prevent a run.

Following the end of the World Series, the Baseball Hall of Fame announced that Bregman's glove is one of three artifacts from the Series that will be enshrined in Coopers-town.

RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF CHRISTIAN LIFE
CENTER AT FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF FORT WALTON
BEACH

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 10 year anniversary of the Christian Life Center at First Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. This 13,000 square foot center was built in 2007 to serve as a community service outreach to residents in the Fort Walton Beach area. Any member of the community is welcomed to hold membership at the Christian Life Center and take full advantage of the multitude of resources they offer.

With approximately 200 members thus far, the center is able to host a wide array of sporting options and programs including Upwards Sporting Program for children and the Special Olympics. In addition to sporting leagues the Christian Life Center offers over 15 exercise classes and programs to members of the community. CLC also offers physical training equipment to assist less mobile individuals with health and wellness. The community has access to the CLC as it serves as the meeting place for the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce in addition to holding various seminars, drives and job fairs.

I would like to personally extend my gratitude to the Christian Life Center and the congregation at First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach for their sincere love for the community and the resources they offer to provide a higher quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate the Christian Life Center on their 10th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MERLIN AND SYLVIA
MCALLISTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Merlin and Sylvia McAllister of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 7, 1946.

Merlin and Sylvia have enjoyed many adventures together throughout their 70 years of marriage. Merlin said, "We've been here, there, and everywhere, and just have a good time and enjoy life. We work together and we

make a good team." They have visited all 50 states and have ventured overseas to Europe. Merlin said throughout his career he has been a jack of all trades and master of none.

Merlin and Sylvia's lifelong commitment to each other, their two children, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but the best.

HONORING DAVID SEELY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Seely who is retiring as the President and CEO of Kirtland Federal Credit Union (KFCU). Throughout his 27 years at the head of the lending institution, Seely oversaw tremendous success as the credit union grew from \$80 million in assets to nearly \$800 million. KFCU now serves more than 48,000 clients, including many men and women in uniform.

Seely also earned a reputation for combating predatory lending practices and promoting financial education. When the federal government shut down for several days in 2013, Seely ensured his members had access to services such as extended loan due dates and fee waivers while they were furloughed.

In addition to his work with the credit union, Seely volunteered his time to help promote economic growth, as well as support military personnel serving at Kirtland Air Force Base. He served on the Kirtland Partnership Committee, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and the New Mexico Association of Commerce & Industry. Recently, Seely received a Humanitarian award from the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque for his service to non-profit organizations and leadership at Kirtland Federal Credit Union.

His work at the credit union and support for Kirtland Air Force Base was also recognized by Col. Michael Duvall, 377th Air Base Wing Commander, who singled out KFCU as the "Best in the Air Force" for its commitment to improving the quality of life of Kirtland personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Mr. David Seely for all of his success and his contributions. We wish him well in his retirement. I thank David. He is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING DENISE M. FORTE ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and pay tribute to Denise Forte, who is my staff director on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After a remarkable 20 plus year career in federal service, today is Denise's last day with us.

Denise first came to Capitol Hill as a Women's Research and Education Institute fellow in my personal office in 1994. While she received her degree in computer science from Duke University, Denise's fellowship on Capitol Hill made her realize her true professional calling—helping ensure America's children have equality access to a quality education. I recognized her talent and; at the conclusion of her fellowship, hired her as a full-time employee where she excelled at several positions, including as my legislative director.

Her passion and talent eventually caught the attention of Congressman George Miller, the former Ranking Member and Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. Denise seized an opportunity to join the Committee in 2001, where she served in successively senior roles, eventually becoming Congressman Miller's director of education policy. During her initial service with the Committee, Denise played integral roles in major reforms, including the No Child Left Behind Act, the College Cost Reduction Act, Child Nutrition Reauthorization, reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act, and the Student Aid and Responsibility Act, amongst others.

Denise left the Committee in early 2011 to join the Obama Administration at the Department of Education's Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development as a deputy assistant secretary. In that capacity, she provided strategic advice and counsel to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Denise also directed and managed several policy portfolios, including overseeing budget, higher education, and early education policy development.

In late 2014, my colleagues in the House Democratic Caucus elected me to succeed George Miller as Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. I immediately knew who I wanted to help me assemble a staff and lead my team—Denise Forte. As my colleagues know, Denise is well-regarded and respected by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. She is known to care deeply and fight vigorously for what she believes in, but Denise always remains focused on achieving what's possible. She understands the importance of building bridges and working to identify policy areas on which Committee Democrats and Republicans can agree.

The best example of that is the most recent reauthorization of our nation's landmark education law, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Despite an increasingly polarized environment, Denise believed in the possible and led my team to realize a full rewrite of the law in the Every Student Succeeds Act, which was enacted last Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. Denise led our

team's effort and helped us accomplish something that hadn't been done in nearly 15 years.

Denise Forte built her career in public service on getting results, making meaningful progress for America's students and working families, and helping this institution function effectively. She cares deeply about Congress and our Committee's mission, and she will be greatly missed. I wish her well as she gets to spend a little extra time with her husband, Kyo, and her beloved sons, Gabe and Johnny, before she starts her next adventure at the Century Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for my staff, Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in thanking Denise Forte for her more than two decades of honorable service to this institution and the American people.

TRIBUTE TO DELORIS STENZEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deloris Stenzel and her late husband Glen, of Hamburg, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 Farm Family of the Year Award by the Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association.

Deloris and Glen were college sweethearts and they attended Northwest Missouri State University. They returned to the family farming operation where they managed their farms for decades and were blessed with two children, Deb and Steven. Deloris and Glen were active in their community, and Glen served on numerous area boards and committees. Together, they were always eager to lend a helping hand to neighbors, whether it was pulling someone out of a ditch, delivering meals, or helping combine a neighbor's field.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent community leaders like the Stenzels in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Stenzels for this outstanding achievement and in wishing them nothing but the best.

LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, Colorado voters chose to amend the State Constitution to legalize the cultivation, sale, and personal use of marijuana for people 21 years of age or older. Today, Colorado is home to a growing marijuana economy which has created 23,000 jobs in the industry and in excess of \$200 million in tax revenue which helps to fund our schools.

States like Colorado, and now dozens of other states, have proven that allowing responsible adults to legally purchase marijuana, gives money to classrooms, not cartels; creates jobs, not addicts; and boosts our economy, not our prison population.

Colorado ought to be an example for the nation, and it is past time we lift the federal prohibition on marijuana. That's why I'm proud to sponsor the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act, which allows each state to decide for itself whether to legalize marijuana. In addition, I will continue to attempt to restrict the Department of Justice from enforcing federal marijuana laws in states where it is legal.

Earlier in 2017, I launched the bipartisan Cannabis Caucus with Rep. EARL BLUMENAUER, Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, and Rep. DON YOUNG. The caucus will serve as an important working group to discuss marijuana policy and its future, moving Congress into the 21st century on drug policy.

I applaud the pioneers of the cannabis industry in Colorado and nationwide. The perseverance and hard work to create a new model of legalization is commendable.

TRIBUTE TO MALVERN BANK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Malvern Bank of Malvern, Iowa, for celebrating 125 years in business. The bank was founded in 1892.

Kate McGann, Executive Vice President said, "after 125 years, we're hitting the refresh button with a new name and logo." Throughout its existence, Malvern Bank has gone through a number of name changes beginning in 1906 when it became Malvern National Bank, and in 1929, when Iowa banking laws changed to permit expanded trust offerings, the bank became the Malvern Trust & Savings Bank. Finally, it was in 1946 that Eugene W. Burdick became president of the bank, and since then his family has retained ownership. They have remained at their original location on 404 Main Street, continuing to providing the same type of customer service and community leadership the bank was founded on.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent Malvern Bank in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding achievement and in wishing everyone at the Malvern Bank nothing but continued success.

RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE PHILIP G. MINARDO

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of Justice Philip G. Minardo.

Justice Philip Minardo was born and raised in Brooklyn where he later attended St. Michael's Diocesan High School. In 1963, he graduated from Manhattan College with a B.A. in Economics, and later received his J.D. from St. John's University of Law in 1967. In December 1968, John M. Braisted, Jr. appointed

Philip as an Assistant District Attorney for Richmond County. He served in this position for over seven years and played a role in the successful prosecution of countless felony cases in Staten Island. After leaving the Richmond County District Attorney's office, he started his own law firm in September 1976 focusing on civil and criminal cases.

After Philip's election to the Richmond County Bar Association's (RCBA) Board of Directors, he became President in 1987, and as such represented then-Supreme Court Justice Frank Ponterio on behalf of the RCBA in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Board of Estimate of City of New York v. Morris*. In 1995, he was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, 2nd Judicial District, which serves Brooklyn and Staten Island. After serving on the Supreme Court, Justice Minardo returned to Staten Island where he was appointed as the first Administrative Judge of Richmond County and thereafter, the first Administrative Judge of the newly created 13th Judicial District.

Justice Minardo has also been the recipient of prestigious honors throughout his successful career. In 2010, he received the Rapallo Award by the Colombian Lawyers of the First Department. In addition, he was a recipient of the Good Scout Award for outstanding service while serving on the Board of Directors of the Staten Island Council of the Boy Scouts of America. While his accomplishments are impressive, Justice Philip Minardo places an immense amount of pride and joy in his family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Justice Philip G. Minardo on his retirement and on his exceptional career. He has been an outstanding jurist, and I laud him for his lifetime of dedication and success.

TRIBUTE TO JANET PETERSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janet Petersen, Iowa State Senator and Co-Founder of Healthy Birth Day, Inc. for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, *Business Record*.

For 18 years, the *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Janet didn't always believe she was someone who wanted to be at the forefront of public policy. It was through her life experiences that she was ultimately called to public service. During her time in the Iowa State Legislature, she has been a formidable advocate on the issues she is passionate about. Janet is also the founder of a nonprofit organization called Healthy Birth Day, which teaches prospecting parents how to track the movements of their child in the third trimester.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Janet in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for receiving this esteemed designation,

thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and in wishing Janet nothing but the best.

HONORING SUSAN POPOVICH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a woman who was dedicated to public service and advocacy. Susan Popovich focused on the needs of her community throughout her life and was a source of hope for many in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Susan began her career as an educator in Pennsylvania and taught in Arizona for 14 years. After teaching, she continued her career in education by working for the National Education Association, where she worked for 23 years in several roles. She started out as an organizer and moved into the position of Regional Executive Director. She was also a Negotiations and Organizational Development Specialist with the NEA. Eventually, political activism became an important part of her life.

Susan participated in political campaigns and completed hundreds of hours canvassing. In doing so, she became a friend to many in Santa Fe and deeply understood hardships the community faced.

I also admire Susan for her work as a caregiver for her mother and brother through the end of their lives. She was selfless and giving, proven by the work she dedicated herself to and her care for others.

Her life will continue to inspire educators, activists, and politicians. A life led by such a devoted woman will be remembered and felt in the community for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 2017 INDUCTEES TO THE WYOMING BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Lois Herbst, Patrick and Paul Hladky, and Maury Brown on being inducted into the Wyoming Business Hall of Fame.

The Wyoming Business Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by the University of Wyoming's College of Business, the Wyoming Business Alliance/Wyoming Heritage Foundation, and the Wyoming Business Council. It recognizes those who go above and beyond for their businesses and their communities. Lois, Patrick, Paul, and Maury each have made an excellent example for their families, friends, and residents across the state through their hard work, leadership, and tenacity.

This year's inductees have been successful in their businesses and have become integral parts of their communities:

Throughout her impressive career, Lois Herbst has helped run her family's ranch, the Herbst Lazy TY Ranch LLP, and has served on many state agriculture boards. She was in-

ducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1999, and has served as the president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the first and only woman to hold that post, as well as on the Wyoming State Grazing Board.

Since taking over operation of their father's business, Cyclone Drilling, Patrick and Paul Hladky have expanded it into a business that employs more than 700 people, operating throughout the Rockies. They are active in their community and believe that economic development depends on an educated workforce. This belief has driven their commitment to supporting educational opportunities throughout Gillette and the state.

Maury Brown is the owner of two businesses in Wyoming: Town and Country Supermarket Liquors, and Maurice Brown Exploration. He is dedicated to philanthropy, receiving multiple local awards, including the 2013 Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year award. I would like to thank Lois, Patrick, Paul, and Maury for their continued dedication and significant contributions to Wyoming's economy and community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the 2017 inductees to the Wyoming Business Hall of Fame. Lois, Patrick, Paul, and Maury deserve to be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN HATTEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Susan Hatten for being named the 2017 Emerging Woman of Influence by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, Business Record. Susan has shared her talents and abilities through decades of service to organizations including, Variety, WineFest Des Moines, and The United Way of Central Iowa.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Susan began her career in marketing and public relations with the Sigler Company and later joined Holmes Murphy and Association in 2014 as a senior consultant. According to Susan, both organizations have been nothing but supportive of volunteer efforts in the community allowing her to make the necessary time commitment to have a real, lasting impact on her community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent community leaders like Susan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Susan Hatten on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Susan nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING FALLING SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING HONORED AS A 2017 NA- TIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Falling Spring Elementary School on being honored as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. The outstanding nomination from the Pennsylvania Department of Education comes after a vast amount of activities and efforts which were implemented at the Falling Spring School for the betterment of their students.

Falling Spring Elementary School has shown outstanding academic achievements through continual improvements of resources and materials provided to the students, the application of strategies that engage students in their learning, maximizing instructional time with students, and presenting a model of expected outcomes for students to follow. The integration of SMART boards and iPads in each classroom allows for teachers to better incorporate realistic examples of materials, motivate students with fun activities, and provide more direct communication.

Not only is Falling Spring Elementary laser focused on student learning, but it also offers additional opportunities for students to grow. The school garden allows students in grades K-5 to come together as one through planning, planting, and maintaining garden beds, and provides them the chance to have fresh produce tastings in the fall and spring. In addition to the school run garden, they also have a recycling and composting program where students assist with composting and recycling of materials from within the school cafeteria.

Falling Spring Elementary School offers a wide variety of clubs that appeal to the interests of all students. These clubs range from the STEM club with activities focused on science, technology, engineering and math, to the Compassion in Action club which has raised awareness for kindness in the school and the community. One exemplary program offered at Falling Springs is the SOAR or Student Leadership club. Over the years, SOAR has developed the school pledge, addressed bullying issues, and organized a positive incentive program. The school has also incorporated a Parent Teacher Association which consists of parents who are deeply committed to supporting students and contributing to the success of the children within their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to congratulate the students, staff, and parents of Falling Spring Elementary School for this outstanding nomination. The level of care and dedication to the success of the students necessary for an award such as a Blue Ribbon School is clearly shown in Falling Spring Elementary School, and it is an honor to recognize them for this wonderful achievement.

HONORING EVAN CLARK

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evan Clark, a student at Sandia Prep in Albuquerque, N.M., who has made a name for himself as an advocate in the fight to eliminate Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes. Evan was diagnosed as having diabetes when he was 7 years old. Now, at age 15, Evan is bringing awareness to the disease at a national level.

Evan currently serves as New Mexico's delegate to JDRF 2017 Children's Congress. He was one of 164 delegates chosen by JDRF, the leading global organization funding Type 1 Diabetes research. He recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Children's Congress, which included a Town Hall forum with delegates, professional athletes, actors and news anchors.

Evan also participated in a hearing before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, where he and other delegates urged Congress to continue to fund diabetes research. They emphasized the organization's key principles for healthcare reform, and the need for robust annual funding for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In New Mexico, Evan is a frequent speaker at JDRF events, such as the walk, the gala, Type 1 Nation, and other events that raise awareness and money for diabetes research. In 2012, Evan's family was named the "Eternal Hope Honoree Family" during that year's gala, where 400 guests raised more than \$300,000 for JDRF. Evan was most proud of the fact that his own school and classmates donated money to fund a cure to help him.

When he's not advocating for JDRF, Evan enjoys the outdoors. He is an avid fisherman, rifleman and marksman. He also enjoys flag football, basketball and track.

Evan is an inspiration to his family, friends and the entire community in New Mexico. He has taken on a major challenge in the battle against Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes. I am confident we can find a cure as long as we invest in research. And I have no doubt Evan will ensure that those investments continue.

TRIBUTE TO NISHNA VALLEY
CREDIT UNION**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nishna Valley Credit Union of Atlantic, Iowa, for celebrating 60 years in business.

Tim Marcsisak, CEO of the Credit Union said, "they literally started out raising capital by asking folks to join the Credit Union and put deposits in there, and when they had enough deposits, they turned around, and started loaning it back out." Today, 26 counties in Iowa and Missouri are eligible to join the credit union. Fourteen employees work in their two locations, and there are 5,000 mem-

bers who have joined the Credit Union. New technology has been the greatest change in the operation of their business and that has allowed them to continually grow.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent businesses like Nishna Valley Credit Union in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding achievement and in wishing them all nothing but the best.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 8

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1693, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking. S. 1668, to rename a waterway in the State of New York as the "Joseph Sanford Jr. Channel", and the nominations of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Bruce Landsberg, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Raymond Martinez, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Transportation, and Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine protecting consumers in the era of major data breaches.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the impact of lawsuit abuse on American small businesses and job creators.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1400, to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and S. 465, to provide for an independent outside audit of the Indian Health Service.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To receive a closed briefing on a readout of Ambassador Haley's recent trip to Africa.

S-116

NOVEMBER 9

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Glen R. Smith, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, and Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert H. McMahon, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary, R. D. James, of Missouri, and Bruce D. Jette, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Shon J. Manasco, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2070, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, and the nominations of Gregory G. Katsas, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Emily Coody Marks, and Brett Joseph Talley, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Holly Lou Teeter, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Bobby L. Christine, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, and David J.

Freed, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security,

Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, and James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Jonathan H. Pittman, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

NOVEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

SD-366

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7005–S7032

Measures Introduced: Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2075–2082. **Pages S7015–16**

Measures Passed:

TSP Modernization Act: Senate passed H.R. 3031, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account. **Page S7029**

Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7029–30**

McConnell (for Johnson/McCaskill) Amendment No. 1579, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7029–30**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to Burundi; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–19) **Page S7014**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–20) **Pages S7014–15**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was

originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–21) **Page S7015**

Engel Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Pages S7005–11**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the order of Thursday, November 2, 2017, which notwithstanding Rule XXII, be modified to have all Executive Session cloture motions ripen following the disposition of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, the time post-cloture be counted as if invoked at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2017. **Page S7005**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, under the order of October 26, 2017. **Page S7030**

Messages from the House: **Page S7015**

Measures Referred: **Page S7015**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S7015**

Executive Communications: **Page S7015**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7016–17**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7017–18**

Additional Statements: **Page S7014**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7019–20**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:11 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7030.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 9 public bills, H.R. 4254–4262, were introduced. **Page H8522**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H8523**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3122, to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–385);

H.R. 3562, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–386);

H.R. 3656, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–387);

H.R. 3657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–388);

H.R. 1066, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–389);

H.R. 918, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental health care to certain former members of the Armed Forces who are not otherwise eligible to receive such care, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–390);

H. Res. 607, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3441) to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (H. Rept. 115–391); and

H.R. 2148, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify capital requirements for certain acquisition, development, or construction loans, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–392). **Pages H8521–22**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Comer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8499**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H8500**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 169 nays with 3 answering "present", Roll No. 609.

Pages H8500, H8510–11

Recess: The House recessed at 2:19 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H8502**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title: H.R. 3562, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 607;

Pages H8502–04, H8509

Veterans Affairs Management Alignment Act of 2017: H.R. 1066, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-

and-nay vote of 399 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 608; **Pages H8504–05, H8510**

Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017: H.R. 3122, amended, to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices;

Pages H8505–07

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a warning regarding dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices targeting individuals who are eligible for increased pension on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes.”.

Page H8507

Amending title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable: H.R. 3656, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable; and

Page H8507

Amending title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries: H.R. 3657, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries;

Pages H8508–09

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes.”.

Page H8509

Recess: The House recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H8509

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attack in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Pages H8509–10

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Burundi that was declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015 is to continue in effect beyond November 22,

2017—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–76).

Page H8502

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979 is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–77).

Page H8502

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994 is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–78).

Page H8502

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8509, H8510, and H8510–11. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HYDROPOWER POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017; SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3043, the “Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017”; and H.R. 3441, the “Save Local Business Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–2, a structured rule for H.R. 3043. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment 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 the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3441 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 Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and that 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. Testimony was heard from Chairman Walden and Foxx, and Representatives Rush, Babin, Garamendi, LaMalfa, Grothman, and Scott of Virginia.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 1, the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act”.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1140)

H.J. Res. 111, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Arbitration Agreements”. Signed on November 1, 2017. (Public Law 115–74)

H.R. 1329, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2017, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–75)

H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–76)

H.R. 2989, to establish the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–77)

S. 190, to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or

surveillance systems. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–78)

S. 504, to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–79)

S. 920, to establish a National Clinical Care Commission. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–80)

S. 1617, to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, as the “Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint”. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–81)

S. 782, to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program. Signed on November 2, 2017. (Public Law 115–82)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Behler, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Dean L. Winslow, of Delaware, to be an Assistant Secretary, Thomas B. Modly, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, and James F. Geurts, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1591, to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine advancing the Internet of Things in rural America, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to receive a closed briefing on North Korea’s cyber capabilities and United States policy response, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, and James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Discussion Draft, Energy Star Reform Act of 2017 and H.R. 3477, Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Sustainable Housing Finance, Part III”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “Examining Federal Reserve Reform Proposals”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled “Democracy and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, joint hearing entitled “Russia: Counterterrorism Partner or Fanning the Flames?”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled “How Effective is the Science and Technology Directorate?: Stakeholder Perspectives”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Anti-Semitism on College Campuses”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Sovereign Immunity and the Intellectual Property System”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Challenges in Puerto Rico’s Recovery and the Role of the Financial Oversight and Management Board”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on legislation to distribute revenues from oil and gas leasing on the outer Continental Shelf to certain coastal States, to require sale of approved and scheduled offshore oil and gas leases, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, and to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Full Committee, begin markup on H.R. 995, the “21st Century Respect Act”; H.R. 1532, the “Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act”; H.R. 1800, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs; H.R. 2504, to ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms; H.R. 2907, the “Planning for American Energy Act of 2017”; H.R. 3469, to designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foot-hills Parkway (commonly known as “Bridge 2”) as the “Dean Stone Bridge”; H.R. 3905, the “Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act”; H.R. 4239, the “SECURE American Energy Act”; and S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of

amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, 5 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2201, the “Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act”; and H.R. 2874, the “21st Century Flood Reform Act”, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade, hearing entitled “Investing in Small Businesses: The SBIC Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 7 through November 10, 2017

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 noon.

Following disposition of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

Following disposition of the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Peter B. Robb, of Vermont, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

Following disposition of the nomination of Peter B. Robb, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William L. Wehrum, of Delaware, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Following disposition of the nomination of William L. Wehrum, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Derek Kan, of California, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: November 9, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Glen R. Smith, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, and Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: November 7, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Behler, of

Pennsylvania, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Dean L. Winslow, of Delaware, to be an Assistant Secretary, Thomas B. Modly, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, and James F. Geurts, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

November 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert H. McMahon, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary, R. D. James, of Missouri, and Bruce D. Jette, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Shon J. Manasco, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: November 7, business meeting to consider S. 1591, to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: November 7, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine advancing the Internet of Things in rural America, 10 a.m., SR–253.

November 8, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1693, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking, S. 1668, to rename a waterway in the State of New York as the “Joseph Sanford Jr. Channel”, and the nominations of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Bruce Landsberg, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Raymond Martinez, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Transportation, and Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine protecting consumers in the era of major data breaches, 9:45 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 7, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to receive a closed briefing on North Korea's cyber capabilities and United States policy response, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

November 8, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to receive a closed briefing on a readout of Ambassador Haley's recent trip to Africa, 3 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 7, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, and James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

November 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

November 9, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, and James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Jonathan H. Pittman, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: November 8, to hold hearings to examine S. 1400, to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and S. 465, to provide for an independent outside audit of the Indian Health Service, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: November 8, to hold hearings to examine the impact of lawsuit abuse on American small businesses and job creators, 10 a.m., SD–226.

November 9, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2070, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, and the nominations of Gregory G. Katsas, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, Emily Coody Marks, and Brett Joseph Talley, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Holly Lou Teeter, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Bobby L. Christine, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, and David J. Freed, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 7, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, November 9, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Aviation Readiness: What's the Flight Plan?”, 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, November 8, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, joint hearing entitled “Close to Home: How Opioids are Impacting Communities”, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, November 8, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “MACRA and Alternative Payment Models: Developing Options for Value-based Care”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

November 9, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled “Perspectives on Mixed Martial Arts”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

November 9, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing on legislation on the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, November 8, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “Administration Priorities for the International Financial Institutions”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

November 8, Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance, hearing entitled “Financial Intelligence and Enforcement: Treasury’s Role in Safeguarding the American Financial System”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, November 8, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, joint hearing entitled “The President’s Plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan: Objectives and Resources”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

November 8, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “Examining the Effectiveness of the Kingpin Designation Act in the Western Hemisphere”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

November 9, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Resolving the Political Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, November 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Preventing the Next Attack: TSA’s Role in Keeping Our Transportation Systems Secure”, 10:30 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3989, the “USA Liberty Act of 2017”; and H.R. 170, the “Protect and Grow American Jobs Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, November 8, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 995, the “21st Century

Respect Act”; H.R. 1532, the “Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act”; H.R. 180, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs; H.R. 2504, to ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms; H.R. 2907, the “Planning for American Energy Act of 2017”; H.R. 3469, to designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as “Bridge 2”) as the “Dean Stone Bridge”; H.R. 3905, the “Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act”; H.R. 4239, the “SECURE American Energy Act”; and S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, November 8, Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “Moving the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem: Challenges and Opportunities”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, November 8, Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Energy, joint hearing entitled “Geoengineering: Innovation, Research, and Technology”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

November 9, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled “An Update on NASA Exploration Systems Development”, 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, November 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hiring More Heroes: A Review of SBA’s Office of Veterans Business Development”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4242, the “VA Care in the Community Act”, and H.R. 4243, the “VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

November 8, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “A Review of the Interagency Transition Assistance Program and the Need for Enhanced Outcome Measurements”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 noon.

Following disposition of the nomination of John H. Gibson II, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 3441—Save Local Business Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 3043—Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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