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No. 47

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 19, 2018.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS WEEK

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, March 25 through March 31 is National Physicians Week. As a practicing physician for nearly 30 years, I would like to use my time today to acknowledge the dedicated doctors nationwide who devote their lives to providing quality care for our patients.

I am so thankful for the doctors who have led the charge to observe a week dedicated to our Nation's physicians,

and especially thanks to Dr. Kimberly Jackson. Dr. Jackson is a true pioneer for the medical profession. In June of 2015, she founded the Physicians Working Together organization. This group was created to bring physicians together from a broad spectrum of specialties. Dr. Jackson then, just 1 year later, established the last week in March as National Physicians Week.

This year's celebration will include a physician-led virtual conference hosted by the Physicians Working Together group. The conference is available for free and will provide physicians with valuable ways to improve their everyday practice. The virtual sessions will also highlight ways that physicians can take action in policy through advocacy groups and navigate the world of politics. I encourage my friends in the medical industry to tune in.

As an obstetrician/gynecologist, I have had the privilege of building relationships with patients that I will always hold dear to my heart. There is nothing quite like watching a family grow before your eyes and having a hand in their healthy growing.

Although government regulations piled on over the years have continued to make it difficult to build and nurture these relationships, my patients have become no less important nor less of a priority to me. I know this to be the case for many other doctors throughout the Nation.

During my time practicing medicine in Great Bend, Kansas, I had the opportunity to work alongside many fellow physicians who practice with a level of care that I want for my own family, physicians who are more than deserving of a week of appreciation. So please take a few moments to show your support for your local physicians.

For more information regarding the conference, I would ask you to check out the National Physicians Week Facebook page, or look at my own social media pages for more ways to spread the word.

IT IS TIME TO STAND UP FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to talk about the events of Friday night and concern for the continued special counsel position of Robert Mueller.

On Friday night, late, the Deputy Director of the FBI, Mr. Andrew McCabe, was fired. I haven't seen the IG report. Nobody has seen it. It won't be available until April. But it is concerning that, that late at night, people were working at Justice to fire a career employee and possibly deprive him of his pension.

Mr. McCabe believes the reason he was fired was because of his knowledge of Mr. Comey's conversations with the President, and his own conversations with the President, and his being a corroborating witness. I don't know what the cause was, but the process was awful. It was rushed, and it seemed to violate the due process rights of this career Federal employee.

And then to watch the President of the United States, a multibillionaire, spike the ball on being able to deprive a 20-year Federal employee of a pension was cruel, un-American, and mean-spirited. It was a shot across the bow at other government officials who are doing their jobs—Justice Department officials, FBI officials, law enforcement officials who love this country and put their lives on the line—and that if they don't agree with the Mueller investigation continuing; or if they see concerns about the United States President and his campaign and some involvement with Russia or with obstruction of justice, or violations of emoluments clauses; that they too risk their jobs and risk their pensions, and risk their financial security.

It is a scary time in America, and we are looking at the abyss.

□ 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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In December, I was concerned about this as well. And Representative WALTER JONES from North Carolina, a Republican, and I, have a bipartisan bill, H.R. 4669, which has a Senate companion filed, and is bipartisan as well, by Senator TILLIS and Senator COONS, which is S. 1741; and it gives the special counsel due process if he is fired for causes that are not objective—related to his job and the performance of his duties.

But it means he couldn't be fired for politics and he couldn't be fired to squelch an investigation concerning the very fundamentals of this country and allegiance and adherence to the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America for which we have all taken an oath to uphold. Nothing is more sacred.

If the President has done nothing wrong, as he has said on many occasions, and he has tweeted recently about Mr. Mueller and said it is a "witch hunt" and said there is no collusion. If there is no collusion, if there is no obstruction of justice, if there are no violations, the President should, as Representative TREY GOWDY has said, welcome the continuation of the investigation to clear him.

As Representative TREY GOWDY said: He is not acting like a man who is innocent. And Representative CHARLIE DENT has said similar things.

If you have nothing to hide, why stop an investigation if there is nothing to find? And if there is something to find and something for the American people to know about, and for Congress to know about and act on, then it is incumbent on us to protect Mr. Mueller and protect that investigation.

That is why we have these bipartisan bills. I know there is Democratic support for these bills, but there hasn't been Republican support that I know of, beyond Senator TILLIS and Representative WALTER JONES.

I call on Speaker RYAN to schedule this bill, have it scheduled in Representative GOODLATTE's committee, my committee, the Judiciary Committee, for a hearing, or bring it directly to the floor for a vote.

I call on Representative GOODLATTE to schedule the bill for a markup and have it voted on.

But, more importantly, I call on my Republican colleagues to stand up for America and stand up for their oath of office.

We get along, Republicans and Democrats. Republicans are good people, too. They have different thoughts on certain issues and different perspectives than most Democrats and I do. But we all believe in an America that should not be capitulating to Russia, and an America that shouldn't be seeing the Constitution shredded and laws violated.

So I call on my Republican colleagues to look into their soul, look into their heart, remember their oath. Sign on to H.R. 4669, as Representative WALTER JONES has, and stand up for America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

NEVER AGAIN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, over 4 weeks have passed since our Nation suffered an unspeakable tragedy in Parkland, Florida, where we lost 17 souls that we cannot get back.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of these young, brave souls who will move this country to act to protect other young students across this Nation.

Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, Peter Wang.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have met with the brave students of Parkland. I have also met with the parent of one of those lost souls.

I have met with students and parents and teachers alike in my own district in Pennsylvania. I have seen the fear and the anxiety in their demeanor. I have seen the tears in their eyes. They are asking for this Congress to do what past Congresses have failed to do.

Mr. Speaker, there were countless missed signals and missed opportunities that could have prevented this tragedy from happening. However, this is not the time for finger-pointing; this is a time for healing, and, more importantly, this is a time for action.

We were elected to Congress not to hide from tough decisions, not to be afraid to tackle tough problems. Mr. Speaker, we were elected to lead, and lead we must.

As a 14-year FBI agent, I carried a weapon on my ankle every day in order to save lives and keep people safe. And as a Federal gun crimes prosecutor, I prosecuted and imprisoned those who committed violent gun crimes in order to protect people, in my role as a prosecutor, and keep our communities safe.

Keeping our communities safe and protecting the Second Amendment are not mutually exclusive concepts. We can advance both and preserve both simultaneously. All we need to do, Mr. Speaker, is be willing to do what every American wants us to do, which is put away ideology and come together in a bipartisan fashion.

Of all the responsibilities we have, of all of the responsibilities we have, we have no higher responsibility as elected officials, and as citizens, than to protect our kids.

After the terror attacks of September 11, we said: Never again. Never again will we allow terrorists to seize control of a cockpit and turn a commercial airliner into a guided missile.

What did we do? We created the Department of Homeland Security; we deployed a Federal Air Marshal Service, the likes of which this country has never seen; we fortified our cockpits; we deployed state-of-the-art screening equipment across our Nation's 450-plus airports across the country. We said: Never again.

I am calling on my colleagues to have the same response to school shootings: Never again.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, of which I am a proud member, has developed a well-thought-out list of 10 legislative proposals that help us achieve this goal, to protect our kids, to say never again to this needless violence.

I urge my colleagues in this House, Democrat and Republican alike, to show leadership in tackling these tough issues. Call for a floor vote and support these bipartisan proposals. Let's do it for our kids. They need us now more than ever.

GUN SAFETY PROVISIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the presentation from my friend from Pennsylvania. I could not agree more that it is time for us to come forward with action.

It was my honor this morning to address the Council of the Great City Schools, who are gathered in our Nation's Capitol—board members, superintendents, dealing with the challenges of education. And they are standing in solidarity with the young people who have raised their voices calling upon Congress to finally act.

One of the things that is deeply troubling is that the Republican leadership refuses to allow a robust debate and action on the floor of the House. There are dozens of provisions that we can come together, produce majorities, enact legislation that will protect children's lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of the Great City Schools had a resolution calling upon us to take action that I include in the RECORD.

RESOLUTION

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS, RELATING TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Council of the Great City Schools assign the Board of Directors all powers and duties necessary to define the policies and positions of the organization and state that the Board may conduct acts in furtherance of those policies, except where the organization is prohibited from doing so by law or other governing documents;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the nation's major city school systems to express their positions on school safety matters that affect its students and the children residing in its cities;

WHEREAS, thousands of our students have publicly expressed concern for their safety

and well-being and have indicated that policymakers should act immediately to protect them in school and beyond;

WHEREAS, the leaders of the nation's major city public school systems respect the concerns of their students, and support the growing civic and social participation of high school students that was inspired by recent events;

WHEREAS, since the school shooting in Columbine in 1999, there have been numerous other school shootings, including those in Red Lake (MN), Lancaster (PA), Blacksburg (VA), Chardon (OH), Cleveland (OH), Sandy Hook (CT), Broward County (FL), and many others that have taken scores of young lives;

WHEREAS, too many of our young people are shot and killed on the streets of our major cities almost every day;

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed countries;

WHEREAS, Americans make up about 4.4 percent of the world's population but own some 42 percent of the world's guns;

WHEREAS, assault weapons have no place in society and other types of guns are too easily obtained;

WHEREAS, teachers are not trained law enforcement officers, and should not be asked or incentivized to keep weapons accessible in their classrooms;

WHEREAS, there is no reason based on any viable research to suggest that adding guns into a school setting or arming teachers would prevent these acts of violence;

WHEREAS, schools across the country need considerable additional resources to plan for the possibility of such acts of violence, coordinate with law enforcement, and secure their buildings from intruders;

WHEREAS, many schools lack the mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers they need to identify and work with students showing warning signs for depression and violence;

WHEREAS, the nation's data collection on gun violence and gun ownership is inadequate to monitor, understand, or prevent these events from happening; and

WHEREAS, the multiple school shootings that the nation has witnessed over the years have complex causes requiring multiple solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools, its member districts, and staff stand with the students of Broward County Public Schools and the nation in demanding effective and comprehensive action from the federal government to protect schoolchildren;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to ban the sale, purchase, possession, and use of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition cartridges, except those needed by the military and law enforcement;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to require and strengthen universal background checks to possess any type of firearm;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the President of the United States to charge all agencies of the federal government with the task of reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths in America.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools is opposed to the arming of teachers to protect schools and children;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to extend the perimeter of Gun-Free School Zones;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to allow school districts across the nation to plan and coordinate school security efforts with law enforcement officials and make other building alterations that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our schools;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds for programs to educate students and their families on the dangers of firearms; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Great City Schools calls on the Congress of the United States to require that states and the federal government collect whatever data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent the extent of gun violence in America.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we find that areas that have acted, in the aftermath of gun violence, to increase protections for gun safety actually makes a difference. It is a lie that gun safety provisions make no difference; that, somehow, people who are intent on slaughter will not behave according to the law, they won't obey it; it will have no impact.

The evidence is that where actions are taken to reduce gun violence, to increase protections, to take guns away from people who shouldn't have them, gun violence is reduced.

In the aftermath of Sandy Hook, when this Congress was paralyzed, refused to allow a bipartisan legislation that would have increased universal background checks, for instance, the State of Connecticut acted. And over the years, they have enacted a series of provisions on gun safety that have resulted in reduced gun violence.

Indeed, the States with the fewest gun safety protections, some no protections at all, have the highest rates of gun violence.

□ 1215

We don't have to fall victim to that type of thinking.

The Council of the Great City Schools pointed out in their resolution that Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed countries. They reject the proposition that we have to be the only developed country that cannot protect our families from gun violence.

They recognize that there is no place to arm teachers in response. There is no evidence that having teachers packing heat would make any difference at all. What it would do is add another layer of uncertainty, and more guns in schools increases the likelihood that they will be used.

They categorically reject the arming of teachers, but say move forward, remove the ability of people to purchase high-capacity automatic weapons,

tighten background checks, and make it easier to do research on gun violence—which this Congress has tried to make illegal.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we will not have the Republican leadership continue to deny us an opportunity to fully debate the proposals that are circulating on a bipartisan basis that would make a difference dealing with background checks, dealing with taking guns away from people who shouldn't have them; making sure that we are reducing the access to some of the most destructive military weapons that have no place circulating in society, that children not old enough, young men not old enough to buy a beer can buy an AK-47. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that people's hearts and minds will be touched by the eloquence that we have heard from these young people in Florida who have endured it, who have put pressure on the Florida Legislature to act. I hope we can do the same.

RETURNING LAND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Guam Land Return Act of 2018. For decades, the people of Guam have worked to see their ancestral lands returned.

In Congress, I have made returning land from the Federal Government to our territorial government of Guam and Guam families a top priority. Since 2003, I have secured return of more than 1,000 acres from the Federal Government to the people of Guam.

My Guam Land Return Act of 2018 would reduce Federal landownership on Guam and return those lands to GovGuam and, ultimately, our people. This important legislation builds upon the work of my predecessors, former Congressman Robert A. Underwood, in particular.

The Guam Land Return Act would authorize the General Services Administration to transfer Federal land, buildings, vehicles, and other heavy equipment designated as surplus to GovGuam at no cost to the taxpayers. This would provide another avenue for the Federal Government to compensate GovGuam for expenses that our territorial government is required to bear in serving migrants under the Compact of Free Association, known as Compact Impact. It would also ask Federal agencies to return more Federal land to GovGuam more quickly.

The Federal Government must finally live up to its commitment to Guam and other affected U.S. jurisdictions with Compact migrant residents. I continue working to secure full Federal reimbursements for GovGuam's costs in providing local services to Compact migrants.

Indeed, I have sponsored the Compact Impact Relief Act, H.R. 4761, this year.

I have also championed legislation to reimburse GovGuam for Compact Impact at the mandatory \$180 million annual level recommended by the Government Accountability Office.

Transfers of valuable surplus Federal property under my Guam Land Return Act provide yet another way to increase Federal reimbursement to GovGuam for Compact Impact expenses, and these transfers of surplus property would occur at no cost to the Federal Government or the taxpayers.

Our island of Guam hosts a substantial U.S. military presence and is a strategic forward-facing domestic military base in the important Asia-Pacific region. In January of 2011, the U.S. military made a commitment to the people of Guam to reduce Federal land-ownership and the military's footprint on Guam. Importantly, the commitment coincides with the buildup of American military personnel and base resources on Guam, part of the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan.

U.S. military and Defense Department leadership under the Trump administration have reaffirmed this net-negative commitment to our people and to me, personally. Since January of 2011, the Defense Department has returned approximately 686 acres to GovGuam.

My Guam Land Return Act holds the Defense Department accountable for meeting the net-negative commitment in full. This legislation would require the Secretary of Defense to maintain a public inventory of all land parcels the Defense Department expects to ultimately transfer to GovGuam under the net-negative commitment.

My legislation outlines 17 specific Federal land parcels, totalling 476 acres that should be transferred to GovGuam. The Guam Land Reform Act would also provide a public mechanism for the Governor of Guam to petition the Defense Department to consider transferring additional land parcels to GovGuam under the net-negative commitment.

Lastly, my legislation includes several provisions relating to current and former Federal land on Guam. Two provisions ensure that no-cost transfers of surplus Federal land and other valuable property do not create additional liabilities or public safety concerns for the Federal Government relating to environmental cleanup or flight paths for air traffic control. One section removes an antiquated Federal restriction on 927 acres on Guam's Cabras Island, which GovGuam has owned since 1981.

The people of Guam are patriotic Americans and support our military servicemembers and their families and the Nation's veterans, and at the same time, the people of Guam want to see their ancestral lands returned, and rightfully so.

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 23 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. RICE of South Carolina) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You are the source of all life and unconditional love. The House of Representatives is a noble institution which embraces the highest aspirations of the Nation's people and embodies their lasting values.

Help the Members of this House to look at themselves, their politics, priorities, and the Nation's interests with new vision in the light of Your Spirit. Help them to be wise and patient legislators, seeking not immediate political wins, but a productive future which will nourish the stability of our homeland and reap a harvest of peace in the world.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DUNN 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL ENIS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a life that was lost too soon. Staff Sergeant Carl Enis from Tallahassee was tragically killed in the Black Hawk helicopter crash that claimed the lives of seven members of the United States Air Force in western Iraq last week.

Sergeant Enis graduated from Florida State University, and went on to

get his MBA in 2017. He chose to selflessly serve our country and he joined the Air Force after college, serving as a pararescueman, where he performed combat rescue missions as a member of the elite 308th Rescue Squadron.

Sergeant Enis loved the outdoors, and he even had a blog about hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was loved and respected by all who met him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Carl Enis and all of our fallen heroes who gave their last full measure of devotion to this country to make Americans safe at home and abroad.

CELEBRATING MS. BETTYE JEAN WILSON FRANKLIN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Bettye Jean Wilson Franklin's 90th birthday.

Ms. Franklin was born March 18, 1928. She is a native of Fort Worth. Ms. Franklin attended and graduated from the historical I.M. Terrell High School. Her passion for education inspired her to work for the Fort Worth Independent School District for 27 years until she retired in 1980.

But it is her everlasting commitment to her faith that is well-known among her friends and family. Ms. Franklin has been a faithful member of the Saint James Baptist Church for the last 77 years, where she contributed in various capacities, including her participation in the senior choir for 52 years.

In addition, she serves her community as a member of the Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Fort Worth Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Ms. Franklin is also a member of the Eastern Star Southern Beauty Chapter 446, and served as Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Texas for 13 years.

She is the proud mother of two daughters, a grandmother of four grandchildren, and the great-grandmother to her seven great-grandchildren.

Happy 90th birthday, Ms. Franklin. I wish you continued health and happiness on this milestone occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOREST HILLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the state champion Forest Hills High School basketball team that won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2-A Championship on March 10.

Forest Hills High School is located in Marshville, North Carolina. This is their first basketball championship in school history.

Yellow Jackets junior guard Jai Rorie made four free throws in the final 14 seconds to lead his team to a 63 to 59 victory.

Congratulations to the team: Brandon Barrier, Dillon Wright, Cam Richardson, Jaquan Williams, Asiah Byrd, Trey Belin, Jaleel McLaughlin, Tanner Lowery, Tyquan Rushing, Jamylan Blakeney, Garrett Horne, Jalen Huntley, Keeshawn Tyson, Nasione Tyson, Jai Rorie, and Josh Owens;

Congratulations to head coach Matt Sides; and assistant coaches Danny Bailey, Garrett Malone, and Keith Sides.

Go, Yellow Jackets.

WORLD CIVILITY DAY

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the initiative of Mr. Chuck Hughes and Dr. Gordon E. Bradshaw from the city of Gary Chamber of Commerce. Their dedicated efforts have created the Community Civility Counts initiative and a World Civility Day, which will celebrate its third annual occurrence on April 12.

World Civility Day was established as a day to become more aware of our behavior toward others and to think about how we can bring more understanding into our lives and the lives of others.

We live in a time when we can all benefit from being a little bit more civil. We live in a time when a kind gesture can have a great consequence for creating a just and tolerant society.

I congratulate the initiative and dedicated work of Mr. Hughes and Dr. Bradshaw. I ask my colleagues to join me this World Civility Day and every day to do our part to bring a little more empathy into our world.

FOREST FIRE RELIEF

(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, I rise today to urge House leadership to include some very important forestry priorities in the upcoming omnibus funding bill.

We all agree that fire borrowing must be fixed. Raiding funds is no way to run a business. But we need much more than that. We need active forest management reforms in order to prevent another devastating wildfire year like we just witnessed in California, as we seem to do every year in the West.

There are over 100 million dead trees right now in just California alone, and they will only turn into tinderboxes if we cannot remove them as we should.

For example, my bill, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act, would allow utility companies to clear a tree in danger of falling on a power line in these rights-of-way without months of paperwork and the liability relief they need in case the government doesn't give them the permission to do it timely.

But congressional leadership on the other side of the aisle refuses to budge when it comes to meaningful forestry management reforms to remove these hazardous dead trees, which is even worse for forest health when we continue to have these fires for no good reason.

I urge them to come to California, come to the north State, come breathe the dirty air each summer when we see firsthand the damage these wildfires cause. Listen to the people who are impacted, who are endangered, and who have to breathe that bad air each year because of these forest fires that are allowed to happen because the government will not manage its land.

Why do we continue to allow this to happen?

I don't know.

RECOGNIZING THE BUCKS COUNTY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Bucks County Children's Museum and the impactful programs that they bring to our community.

Located in New Hope, the museum focuses on creating fun for children up to 7 years old who enjoy using their imagination. At 9,000 square feet, the Children's Museum provides something for every kid. From "The Hospital" exhibit, where kids can put on a lab coat, drive an ambulance, and perform an operation, to the "Town Square," where kids can go back in time to a "turn of the century" general store, or ride the Express train. Our kids can take a virtual hot air balloon or grab a shovel and dig to find artifacts buried in a "Digging" exhibit.

It is incredibly important that we continue to inspire and educate our next generation. I thank the Bucks County Children's Museum for what they do to bring wonder and wonderful experiences to the youngest citizens of Bucks County.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the whole number of the House is 430.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 3:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

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.

CEILING FAN ENERGY CONSERVATION HARMONIZATION ACT

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2030) to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling fan light kits to be January 21, 2020, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2030

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 "Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act".

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE DATE FOR AMENDED ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CEILING FAN LIGHT KITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The compliance date for the amended energy conservation standards established for ceiling fan light kits in the final rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Ceiling Fan Light Kits" (81 Fed. Reg. 580 (January 6, 2016)) is deemed to be January 21, 2020.

(b) CONFORMING CHANGES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall make such technical and conforming changes to any regulation, guidance document, or procedure as may be necessary to implement subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5

legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, energy efficiency can provide benefits for consumers, for job-creating businesses, for energy security, and for the environment, but we have got to make sure that it is done right; and that is why I support S. 2030, Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act, which was sponsored by my good friend from North Carolina, RICHARD HUDSON, and certainly has strong bipartisan cosponsorship, including Mr. CARTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

As most of you know, ceiling fans often come with lights attached, thus, they serve two purposes for consumers. The Department of Energy regulates the energy efficiency of both the ceiling fans and the ceiling fan lights, and stringent new standards are scheduled to take effect in the next 2 years; but for some reason, DOE set the deadline for the ceiling fan light kits in 2019, while the ceiling fan standard deadline is in 2020.

This bill, S. 2030, would take the logical step of aligning the compliance deadlines for ceiling fans and ceiling fan light kits so that they both occur in 2020. This should ease the compliance burden for some manufacturers, make things easier for retailers, and may help lower the costs, in fact, for all consumers.

Although ceiling fan regulations may not be a front-burner issue, we ought to make sure that we take every opportunity to streamline Federal regs and help keep compliance costs down. That is why I would urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this, what I would consider, noncontroversial bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2030, the Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the chairman on this issue. It is bipartisan, and we are going to go ahead and do this law right.

Now, S. 2030 is essentially identical to H.R. 3477, legislation introduced by my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD. The purpose of the legislation is to align the current 2019 compliance deadline for ceiling fan light kit standards with a separate standard for ceiling fans set for 2020.

S. 2030 essentially extends the compliance deadline for the rule amending the standards for ceiling fan light kits

by just over 1 year to January 21, 2020, so they can both occur at the same time.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, required the Department of Energy to put in place efficiency standards for ceiling light kits. The DOE has determined that increasing efficiency standards for ceiling fan light kits would conserve energy more, while being economically feasible. The DOE finally put forth the standard that, as stated previously, would take effect in January of next year. However, because the DOE did not meet the statutory deadline for promulgating a ceiling fan lighting kit standard, certain backstop requirements have been triggered that would be vitiated by the new regulations.

Some have raised questions as to whether the enactment of this legislation would result in an extension of portions of these backstop requirements. I think it is important for manufacturers that we respond to this question, and it is my intent, later on in this debate, to enter into a colloquy with the chairman in order to provide direction to the DOE and make clear Congress' intent with regard to this matter.

New standards for these kits will save money and reduce carbon emissions, and I believe the sooner they are in place, the better for consumers and for our environment.

Having said that, the bill is not opposed by any environmental, community, or consumer groups. Perhaps this is because it is sensible legislation that will greatly help retailers by eliminating unnecessary burdens for sellers of the products, while only minimally delaying new standards.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a brief colloquy with Mr. UPTON, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy.

As I understand the purpose of S. 2030, it is to delay the January 7, 2019, compliance deadline for the latest ceiling fan light kit efficiency standard so as to align it with the January 21, 2020, compliance deadline for ceiling fans overall. Thus the efficiency standards for ceiling fans and for ceiling fan lights will go into force at the same time on January 21, 2020. Is that correct?

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. That is correct. That is the purpose.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I further understand that, pursuant to current law, because the DOE has not yet promulgated a ceiling fan light kit standard, there are backstop standards that have taken effect. As a part of this backstop, no ceiling fan light kit can be offered for sale in interstate commerce whose lamps use more than 180 watts of electricity.

To ensure this result, ceiling fan light kits are required to include a device that limits lamp efficiency consumption to 190 watts or less. Am I correct in that understanding?

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. I would note that in the gentleman's earlier statement, he said: "whose lamps use more than 180 watts of electricity," but, in fact, it is 190 watts or less, but the gentleman, again, is correct.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, again reclaiming my time. I thank the chairman and acknowledge that correction.

I understand that, in preparation for ceiling fan light kit standards going into effect in January 2019, many manufacturers have already switched production and produced kits without the device that limits total lamp consumption to 190 watts or less.

Lighting manufacturers have informed me that the limiting device has been a major source of product failure and that, due to the vast gains in lightbulb technology and a huge drop in the price of highly efficient bulbs, it is no longer necessary to have such a device to keep consumption low.

Unfortunately, because the limiter requirement is tied by statute to the date of enactment of the new standard, technically this bill that is designed to ease regulatory burdens may inadvertently extend for an additional year the 190-watt limiter requirement. I do not believe this is the intent of this body or our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol, in other words, the Senate.

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

I, too, have heard from lighting manufacturers, and I sympathize with the concerns asserted by them regarding potential unintended consequences.

The intent of this bill, and, for that matter, my intent, is to keep the compliance deadline for changes to the 190-watt limiter requirement at January 7, 2019.

We now know that the limiter requirement adds to the cost to consumers, it can compromise ceiling fan reliability, and is no longer needed to meet efficiency standards. The final rule that included the ceiling fan light kit standards also provided that the 190-watt limiter requirement is deemed to be met by any product that complies with the new efficiency standards.

The bottom line is that the 190-watt limiter should no longer be required beginning on January 7, 2019. This bill, S. 2030, seeks to delay the ceiling fan light kit compliance deadline only, but not to delay the change to the 190-watt limiter requirement.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the chairman for confirming that the provisions

of S. 2030 are not intended to delay the change to the 190-watt limiter requirement.

Mr. Speaker, I believe ceiling fan lighting kit manufacturers have acted in good faith in the run-up to the change in the standard and that they should not be penalized for producing light kits without the 190-watt limiting device.

In my view, DOE should take whatever steps are necessary to revise its rules to allow these otherwise compliant kits to be sold and should take no enforcement actions against manufacturers solely because a kit fails to include the 190-watt limiting device.

That doesn't mean the Department should stop all enforcement to ensure compliance with standards for these kits, but it should specifically forgo action against companies for failing to include a limiting device.

Mr. Speaker, I ask if the chairman shares my view.

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

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

Yes, I do share that view. This bill directs the Secretary of Energy to make technical and conforming changes to any implementing regulation so as to carry out the provisions in this bill.

In carrying out this requirement, DOE should make clear to the regulated community that the specific inclusion of a watt-limiting device is no longer needed for a kit to be deemed to meet the 190-watt-or-less consumption requirement.

I further want to associate myself with the gentleman's comments regarding enforcement. The Secretary should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no enforcement action is taken against any manufacturer solely because a kit fails to include the 190-watt limiting device.

To the extent he can, the Secretary should make clear in a public manner that DOE will not enforce against these manufacturers with regard to this particular matter so that no producer holds back their product for the market out of fear of violation.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to thank the chairman for his indulgence in this important clarification of legislative intent.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the chairman and commend my colleagues in both Chambers, specifically Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for working on this bill. The legislation enjoys support from both sides of the aisle on this committee; and, in fact, the House version of the bill, H.R. 3477, passed both the Energy Subcommittee

and the full Energy and Commerce Committee by a voice vote with almost no debate. Similarly, the Senate companion, which is before us now, passed that body by unanimous consent. I hope that we can do the same today and swiftly send this to the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of S. 2030.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2030.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

DHS CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS ACT OF 2018

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5074) to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5074

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 "DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iv), by inserting "including cybersecurity specialists" after "entities";

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (m) as subsections (g) through (n), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

"(f) CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall maintain cyber hunt and incident response teams for the purpose of providing, as appropriate and upon request, assistance, including the following:

"(A) Assistance to asset owners and operators in restoring services following a cyber incident.

"(B) The identification of cybersecurity risk and unauthorized cyber activity.

"(C) Mitigation strategies to prevent, deter, and protect against cybersecurity risks.

"(D) Recommendations to asset owners and operators for improving overall network and control systems security to lower cybersecurity risks, and other recommendations, as appropriate.

"(E) Such other capabilities as the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) determines appropriate.

"(2) CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS.—The Secretary may include cybersecurity specialists

from the private sector on cyber hunt and incident response teams.

"(3) ASSOCIATED METRICS.—The Center shall continually assess and evaluate the cyber incident response teams and their operations using robust metrics.

"(4) SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—Upon the conclusion of each of the first four fiscal years ending after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Center shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate, information on the metrics used for evaluation and assessment of the cyber incident response teams and operations pursuant to paragraph (3), including the resources and staffing of such cyber incident response teams. Such information shall include each of the following for the period covered by the report:

"(A) The total number of incident response requests received.

"(B) The number of incident response tickets opened.

"(C) All interagency staffing of incident response teams.

"(D) The interagency collaborations established to support incident response teams."; and

(4) in subsection (g), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or any team or activity of the Center," after "Center"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "or any team or activity of the Center," after "Center".

(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act.

Before I discuss the bill, however, I would like to say a few words about the recent bombings in my hometown of Austin. In the past month, there have been a total of four bombings that have killed two people and injured four others. These are heinous, hateful acts on innocent Americans, and they will not be tolerated.

I know the people of Austin very well, and they will not be intimidated. I urge everyone back home to take caution and heed the warnings of local law enforcement. We will find whoever is responsible for these bombings and bring them to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now address the bill I have introduced and the threats confronting our cybersecurity.

As technology advances, more and more people are relying on their computers, iPads, and smartphones for both personal and professional use. In short, Mr. Speaker, everyone is a target.

But our enemies do not just attack individuals and their devices. They also put America's critical infrastructure sectors in their crosshairs, endangering all aspects of civilian life. These sectors include our financial services, healthcare systems, dams, and our energy production, among others. All of them play a vital role in making America work, and each one is vulnerable to an attack.

Last week, the FBI and DHS reported that Russian hackers had engineered a series of cyber attacks against American and European nuclear power plants and electric systems. Crippling or shutting down our power plants would have catastrophic effects.

We also know that Russia tried to undermine the credibility of our democratic system in the 2016 elections and are likely to try again in 2018. Strengthening our cyber election security needs to be a bipartisan priority.

Russia is not the only perpetrator of these kinds of attacks. Between 2011 and 2013, Iranian hackers attacked dozens of U.S. banks and even tried to shut down a dam in New York.

In 2015, we learned that Chinese hackers gained access to the private information of 80 million members and employees of Anthem healthcare. The Chinese also stole 22 million security clearances, including my own, from OPM. This attack allowed them to obtain highly sensitive personal data, including fingerprints and Social Security numbers. These continual onslaughts are part of a greater cyber war being carried out against the United States, even as I stand here and speak.

Unfortunately, it doesn't stop there. Our adversaries have weaponized technology and are using it to engage in espionage and to steal our intellectual property. This costs our economy hundreds of billions of dollars each year. In fact, former NSA Director, General Keith Alexander, described this theft as the "greatest transfer of wealth in history."

We must do more to stop these attacks. That is why I have prioritized the cybersecurity mission of DHS as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. Through CISA, the previous bill which passed the House in December, we are elevating and making operational the Department's cybersecurity and infrastructure protection missions.

As part of the landmark DHS reauthorization, which passed the House in July, the Department will be required to provide volunteer assistance to State and local election officials upon request. These were important bipartisan steps, but we need to do more.

The legislation before us today codifies and enhances the cyber incident response times at DHS. These teams shall provide, upon request, assistance to asset owners and operators following cyber incidents, including with election infrastructure.

These teams may also include cybersecurity specialists from the private sector to provide outside expertise, which is a new, innovative breakthrough. By fostering this new collaboration between government and private sector, we can harness our talent and maximize our efforts to stay one step ahead of our enemies.

This innovative approach serves as a force multiplier to enhance our cybersecurity workforce. Being able to utilize a great number of experts will strengthen our efforts to protect our cyber networks. My bill provides DHS with that necessary capability.

The American people deserve to know that we are making every effort to strengthen our cybersecurity. This bill helps us achieve that goal, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5074, the DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, let me again support the chairman's comments about Austin, Texas. We talked a little bit about it last week in a hearing and, since that hearing, another incident has occurred. Terrorism, whether it is domestic or whatever, has no place in this country. I look forward to the capture of the person or persons who are committing these heinous acts in Austin, as well as providing whatever resources might go toward any future apprehensions.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Department of Homeland Security issued a technical alert with the FBI on the Russian Government's efforts to use cyber tools to target our critical infrastructure—including our energy, water, aviation, and commercial facilities, critical infrastructure sectors.

DHS and the FBI released the alert amidst ongoing discussions about the urgent need to better secure our election infrastructure against Russian targeting and as the sophisticated cyber capabilities of Iran, North Korea, China, and nonstate actors continue to evolve. H.R. 5074, the DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018, would codify DHS' Hunt and Incident Response Teams into law.

The Department deploys Hunt and Incident Response Teams to owners and operators of critical infrastructure, upon request and free of charge after a cybersecurity incident. These DHS teams provide intrusion analysis, identify malicious actors, analyze malicious tools, and provide mitigation assistance strategies. They are DHS' "boots on the ground" in cyber inci-

dent response and, as such, play an integral role in improving the cybersecurity posture of critical infrastructure owners and operators.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision last week to finally issue sanctions in response to meddling in the 2016 election was long overdue. Though it was a positive move, I believe it will do little to deter the Russian Government from using cyber tools to target our critical infrastructure.

The Trump administration has yet to put any meaningful strategy in place to address ongoing efforts by the Russian Government—or any other bad actor, for that matter—to undermine the stability of the U.S. economy and government infrastructure in cyberspace. We must ensure that organizations have access to high-quality cyber incident response capabilities. H.R. 5074 would do just that, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a hugely important issue. I think cyber often gets overlooked when we look at kinetic threats of nuclear missiles coming out of North Korea, which is obviously a huge threat to the United States and its allies. But in cyberspace, we are at war, as well, with countries like Russia and China and Iran and North Korea, the Russian meddling in the elections. We can't sit idly by and let that happen again in 2018.

I think this is, as Mr. THOMPSON stated, a very bipartisan issue that we need to work together on against our foreign adversaries that every day are trying to undermine us, stealing intellectual property, espionage, or bringing down things in a cyber warfare attack. It is not the future of warfare; it is warfare here and now.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5074, the DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018.

The "DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018," codifies DHS' National Cybersecurity and Communications Coordination Center (NCCIC) hunt and incident response teams which the Department currently deploys to provide intrusion analysis, identify malicious actors, analyze malicious tools, and provide mitigation assistance to entities requesting assistance after a cybersecurity incident.

The DHS' Hunt and Incident Response Teams play an integral role in improving the cybersecurity posture of critical infrastructure owners and operators, from energy and nuclear power firms to state and local governments administering elections.

The bill requires the NCCIC to submit information to Congress regarding metrics for the teams, at the conclusion of the first four years after enactment.

In 2016, Russian actors targeted U.S. election infrastructure, hackers escalated efforts to

breach the domestic energy sector, and WannaCry and NotPetya ransomware wreaked havoc on public and private infrastructure around the world.

According to Symantec, a leading provider of cybersecurity solutions, said that “The world of cyber espionage experienced a notable shift towards more overt activity, designed to destabilize and disrupt targeted organizations and countries.”

These threats to cyber security are not new.

In June 2015, it was reported that the Office of Personnel Management lost personal information on 21.5 million current and former federal employees and their families.

In 2017, the following were reported attacks and breaches:

WannaCry ransomware that infected millions of networks worldwide; and the

Equifax hack exposed millions of American's credit information to cyber-thieves;

Our nation's critical infrastructure and civilian government agencies depend on the cybersecurity talent and resources that the Department of Homeland Security can provide on the frontline to defend against attacks.

As cyber threats continue to evolve and become more sophisticated, so must U.S. efforts to confront them.

The Department of Homeland Security plays a central role in the federal government's cybersecurity apparatus and in coordinating federal efforts to secure critical infrastructure.

DHS is charged with coordinating agency efforts to secure the (.gov) Domain, while also serving as the hub for cybersecurity information sharing between and among the private sector and federal government.

Earlier this Congress, I introduced H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act, which was passed by the full House and is now in the Senate.

H.R. 3202 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on the policies and procedures developed for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures.

The report will include an annex with information on instances in which cyber security vulnerability disclosure policies and procedures were used to disclose details on identified weaknesses in computing systems that or digital devices at risk.

The report will provide information on the degree to which the information provided by DHS was used by industry and other stakeholders.

The reason that I worked to bring this bill before the committee is the problem often referred to as a “Zero Day Event,” which describes the situation that network security professionals may find themselves when a previously unknown error in computing code is exploited by a cybercriminal or terrorist.

As with other threats that this nation has faced and overcome, we must create the resources and the institutional responses to protect our nation against cyber threats while preserving our liberties and freedoms.

We cannot accomplish this task without the full cooperation and support of the private sector, computing research community and academia.

This level of engagement requires the trust and confidence of the American people that this new cyber threat center will be used for the purpose it was created and that the collaboration of others in this effort to better protect computing networks will be used only for protection and defense.

There are people with skills and those with the potential to develop skills that would be of benefit to our nation's efforts to develop an effective cybersecurity defense and deterrence posture.

It is my hope that as we move forward the Committee on Homeland Security will continue in a bipartisan manner to seek out the best ways to bring the brightest and most qualified people into the government as cybersecurity professionals.

With this policy objective in mind, I look forward to working with the Committee on H.R. 1981, the Cyber Security Education and Federal Workforce Enhancement Act.

I urge my Colleagues in the House to join me in voting for H.R. 5074.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5074, 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.

□ 1615

AIR CARGO SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4176) to strengthen air cargo security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4176

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 “Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR CARGO SECURITY DIVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 44947. Air cargo security division

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall establish an air cargo security division to carry out all policy and engagement with air cargo security stakeholders.

“(b) LEADERSHIP; STAFFING.—The air cargo security division established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be headed by an individual in the executive service within the Transportation Security Administration and be staffed by not fewer than four full-time equivalents, including the head of the division.

“(c) STAFFING.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall staff the air cargo security division with existing Transportation Security Administration personnel.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item related to section 44946 the following new item:

“44947. Air cargo security division.”.

SEC. 3. FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall submit to Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a feasibility study regarding expanding the use of computed tomography technology for the screening of air cargo transported on passenger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air carrier in air transportation, interstate air transportation, or interstate air commerce. Such study shall consider the following:

(1) Opportunities to leverage computed tomography systems used for screening passengers and baggage.

(2) Costs and benefits of using computed tomography technology for screening air cargo.

(3) An analysis of emerging computed tomography systems that may have potential to enhance the screening of air cargo, including systems that may address aperture challenges associated with screening certain categories of air cargo.

(4) An analysis of emerging screening technologies, in addition to computed tomography, that may be used to enhance the screening of air cargo.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 120 days after submission of the feasibility study required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall initiate a two-year pilot program to achieve enhanced air cargo security screening outcomes through the use of new or emerging screening technologies, such as computed tomography technology, as identified through such study.

(c) UPDATES.—Not later than 60 days after the initiation of the pilot program under subsection (b) and every six months thereafter for two years, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the progress of implementation of such pilot program.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—The term “air transportation” has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) FOREIGN AIR CARRIER.—The term “foreign air carrier” has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) INTERSTATE AIR COMMERCE.—The term “interstate air commerce” has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(5) INTERSTATE AIR TRANSPORTATION.—The term “interstate air transportation” has the meaning given such term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 4. AIR CARGO REGULATION REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on actions to improve the Certified Cargo Screening Program as established by the Administrator in September 2009. The report shall—

(1) review the degree to which the Program is effective at fully addressing evolving threats to air cargo, particularly as air cargo volumes fluctuate;

(2) review any vulnerabilities in the Program and effectiveness of information sharing with air cargo security stakeholders; and

(3) include information on actions to be taken to address findings in paragraphs (1) and (2), including information on plans to issue new rulemaking, if necessary.

SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) review the Department of Homeland Security's analysis and intelligence pre-screening processes and procedures for air cargo entering the United States;

(2) review the pilot program conducted pursuant to section 3;

(3) assess the effectiveness of the Department's risk-based strategy for examining air cargo and ensuring compliance with air cargo security rules and regulations; and

(4) review the Department's information sharing procedures and practices for disseminating information to relevant stakeholders on preventing, mitigating, and responding to air cargo related threats.

SEC. 6. KNOWN SHIPPER PROGRAM REVIEW.

The Administrator shall request the Air Cargo Subcommittee of Aviation Security Advisory Committee (established under section 44946 of title 49, United States Code) to—

(1) conduct a comprehensive review and security assessment of the known shipper program under sections 1546.215 and 1548.17 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations;

(2) recommend whether the Known Shipper Program should be modified or eliminated considering the full implementation of 100 percent screening under section 44901(g) of title 49, United States Code; and

(3) report its findings and recommendations to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4176, the Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018.

The Transportation Security Administration is responsible for securing all modes of transportation, and implicit in this responsibility is the security of air cargo. Air cargo represents more than 35 percent of global trade by value, which translates to approximately \$6.8 trillion worth of goods annually.

Given the impact that air cargo has on the U.S. and global economy, it is

not surprising that this sector remains an appealing target for terrorists. Several incidents have demonstrated that terrorists may seek to target U.S.-bound shipments by exploiting weaknesses in air cargo security overseas.

In 2010, explosive devices concealed in packages bound for the United States from Yemen went undetected by initial screenings. Authorities indicated that the explosives were probably intended to detonate mid-flight over a U.S. city.

More recently, in July 2017, bomb-making materials were transported undetected from Turkey to Australia in an air cargo shipment.

H.R. 4176, the Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018, is a timely and necessary step towards a more secure and resilient industry.

This legislation establishes an air cargo security division within the TSA to carry out all air cargo security policy and stakeholder engagement. Unlike the TSA's operational role in passenger screening at checkpoints, the TSA functions in an oversight and regulatory capacity with respect to air cargo screening.

Initiatives like the Certified Cargo Screening Program and the Known Shipper Management System enable the TSA to leverage key partnerships with manufacturers, shippers, freight forwarders, passenger airlines, and all cargo airlines to meet the 100 percent screening mandate of all freight on passenger aircraft.

H.R. 4176 requires the review of the Certified Cargo Screening Program and the Known Shipper Program to ensure that applicable regulations enhance program effectiveness. These initiatives are aided by cargo screening technologies designed to meet the logistical demands of the industry.

H.R. 4176 requires the TSA Administrator to conduct a feasibility study and a subsequent pilot program on expanding the use of computed tomography—CT—and other emerging technologies for air cargo screening.

Through October 2017, air cargo activity increased more than 10 percent from 2016 levels, the largest year-over-year growth in more than a decade, with the largest growth seen among international shipments to and from the United States.

In coordination with the cargo industry, the Customs and Border Protection—CBP—and the TSA have been pilot testing a risk-based approach to vet air cargo shipments known as the Air Cargo Advanced Screening system, with an emphasis on improving inspections on overseas shipments. Accordingly, H.R. 4176 requires the full deployment of ACAS for inbound international air cargo.

The Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018 is a sensible and progressive solution that will help to modernize the security of air cargo shipments and operations while ensuring the flow of commerce.

I thank the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, for ad-

vancing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4176, the Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4176 seeks to improve the Transportation Security Administration's ability to address air cargo-based security threats.

Last July, then-Secretary of Homeland Security, John Kelly, identified such acts as a major concern, explaining that there are people out there, very smart people, very sophisticated people who do nothing but try to figure out how to blow up an airplane in flight.

Later that month, Australian authorities charged four men with plotting to bring down a passenger plane on behalf of ISIS with a bomb in the air cargo hold. This foiled terror plot underscores the need for the TSA to give focused attention to this clear and present security threat. The increased risk to air cargo comes at a time when the volume of goods being moved by air cargo has multiplied, with 2016 volumes nearly back to pre-recession levels.

If enacted, my bill would require the TSA to establish an air cargo security division to carry out air cargo security policy and stakeholder engagement responsibilities. Further, it would direct the TSA to pilot emerging technologies for screening cargo, such as computed tomography, for integration into current security programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this necessary and straightforward Homeland Security legislation.

Mr. Speaker, while passenger and baggage screening efforts are the most visible part of aviation security, protecting against air cargo-based threats is just as critical.

Enactment of H.R. 4176 will ensure that the TSA is positioned to stay ahead of this ever-evolving security threat that face all who navigate our skies.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4176, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this common sense piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, a former chairman of the Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee, and an original co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4176, "Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2017."

H.R. 4176 will strengthen the nation's air cargo security networks by requiring the Transportation Security Administration to establish an air cargo security division within the agency.

Within 120 days of enactment, TSA would conduct a feasibility study on the expanded use of computed tomography for air cargo.

Following the study, TSA would be required to initiate a pilot program to achieve enhanced air cargo security screening through the use of new or emerging technologies.

Within 150 days of enactment, TSA would be required to report to Congress on actions to improve the effectiveness of the Certified Cargo Screening Program.

The Government Accountability Office is tasked with reviewing the effectiveness of DHS' approach to addressing the air cargo security risk, including the risk-based strategy for examining air cargo and ensuring compliance with air cargo security rules.

TSA would be required to request that the Aviation Security Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Air Cargo conduct a comprehensive review of TSA's Known Shipper Program.

Mr. Speaker, thirteen years ago, the U.S. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (9/11 Commission) expressed concerns "regarding the screening and transport of checked bags and cargo."

The Commission called for more attention and resources to be directed to reducing or mitigating the threat posed by explosives in vessels' cargo holds.

Today, the threat of a terrorist attack using air cargo is significant.

In fact, in July, then-Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly identified cargo-based aviation attacks as a major concern, explaining "there are people out there, very smart people, very sophisticated people who do nothing but try to figure out how to blow up an airplane in flight."

Secretary Kelly also said "There is a fair amount of cargo, what we would attribute to just cargo flown on passenger airplane on space available. Terrorists are constantly looking for ways to do this."

This increase in the air cargo security risk comes at a time when the volume of goods being moved by air cargo has increased, with 2016 volume back to approximately 98.4 percent of pre-recession levels with airlines transporting 52 million metric tons of goods.

In response to this security risk, H.R. 4176 directs the Transportation Security Administration to take a number of steps to enhance its responsibilities for air cargo and require the agency to aggressively move towards addressing current and future threats to air cargo.

Specifically, H.R. 4176 clarifies air cargo security responsibilities at TSA, encourages further technological developments for screening air cargo, directs a review of existing air cargo programs, and requires the Department of Homeland Security to make the Air Cargo Advanced Screening Program permanent.

The threat posed by terrorists' abilities and desires to exploit vulnerabilities cannot be understated and they have demonstrably set their targets on air cargo.

We need to be timely and precise in addressing air cargo security, as we cannot afford, nor should the American public tolerate, otherwise.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4176 so we can make Americans more secure from the threat of an air cargo-based terrorist attack.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4176, 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.

ENHANCING DHS' FUSION CENTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5099) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a fusion center technical assistance program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5099

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 "Enhancing DHS' Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program Act".

SEC. 2. FUSION CENTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection (j):

"(j) FUSION CENTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with officials from the National Network of Fusion Centers and, to the greatest extent practicable, other relevant stakeholders, shall establish a fusion center technical assistance program.

"(2) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—In carrying out the fusion center technical assistance program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

"(A) provide technical assistance to fusion centers regarding—

"(i) grants administered under sections 2003 and 2004;

"(ii) terrorism prevention activities; and

"(iii) intelligence and information sharing;

"(B) provide to fusion centers notice of any changes to the activities referred to in subparagraph (A);

"(C) make available best practices regarding—

"(i) fusion center operations;

"(ii) information sharing and analysis of homeland security threats, including cyber threats;

"(iii) protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; and

"(iv) such other best practices as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

"(D) carry out such other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5099, the Enhancing DHS' Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program Act.

Today, the Nation is facing a complex and evolving threat. Terrorist attacks, like the New York City vehicle attack and the Pulse nightclub shooting, have been carried out by individuals inspired by ISIS and other terrorist organizations. These type of lone wolf attacks appear to be the new normal.

This means that now, more than ever, it is imperative that we have strong preventive activities in place, including intelligence and information sharing.

Since 9/11, States and major urban areas established fusion centers to build up the preventive activities by creating an avenue for greater collaboration between Federal, State, and local governments with regards to terrorism and information sharing.

These State and locally owned fusion centers have largely evolved from terrorist-focused centers to all-crimes, all-hazard centers working on a range of relevant Homeland Security issues, including cybersecurity.

I was able to see the work of one of these fusion centers firsthand when I visited my home State's fusion center, the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center—KIFC—earlier this year. I was very impressed with their operation. I want to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is fully supporting this center and the other 78 fusion centers across the United States.

That is why I was troubled to hear about a key fusion center resource in the DHS not living up to its potential.

In 2009, the DHS created a fusion center technical assistance program to provide fusion centers with assistance on a range of topics, including suspicious activity reporting and other relevant trainings. However, based on the findings from the committee's recent fusion center report and my meetings with fusion center personnel, this program is not meeting the needs of the National Network of Fusion Centers.

This is why I introduced H.R. 5099, the Enhancing DHS' Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program Act. This bill provides formal authorization for the DHS fusion center technical assistance program and a clear set of directives on the services to be provided by the program, including assistance related to available grant funding and DHS terrorism prevention programs, as well as intelligence and information sharing.

The bill expands the role of the program to include being a repository of best practices relevant to fusion center activities, including cybersecurity. This is a commonsense bill that should help strengthen the Nation's ability to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks and other Homeland Security relevant events.

Earlier this month, this legislation was passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security by a voice vote. I would like to thank Chairman McCAUL and Mr. GALLAGHER for cosponsoring this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5099, the Enhancing DHS' Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5099 would authorize the Department of Homeland Security's existing fusion center technical assistance program. Currently, there are 79 fusion centers operating in the United States. Each fusion center relies on the DHS to help assist with intelligence products and information-sharing activities, terrorism prevention initiatives, and Homeland Security grant programs.

This bill seeks to solidify engagement between representatives at the fusion centers with their partners in the departments like FEMA and the DHS intelligence branch. Specifically, the program provides technical assistance on topics like best practices for information sharing regarding threats and operating a fusion center.

By codifying this existing program, H.R. 5099 seeks to strengthen the DHS' partnership with fusion centers to ensure that they are well-positioned to address a wide range of diverse security threats that may emerge.

The bill passed committee unanimously and would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the security and well-being of our country is dependent upon the timely sharing of threat information between our law enforcement and intelligence personnel.

Importantly, one of the key areas where the DHS will provide expertise to fusion centers under H.R. 5099 is with respect to the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5099, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member for his support on this legislation. I would once again urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5099.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VEHICULAR TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4227) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4227

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 "Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY ON VEHICULAR TERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) assess the activities the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to support emergency response providers and the private sector to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the threat of vehicular terrorism; and

(2) based on such assessment, develop and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy to improve the Department's efforts to support the efforts of emergency response providers and the private sector to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such threat.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An examination of the current threat of vehicular terrorism.

(2) Methods to improve Department of Homeland Security information sharing activities with emergency response providers and the private sector regarding best practices to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the increasing threat of vehicular terrorism.

(3) Training activities the Department can provide, including possible exercises, for emergency response providers to prevent and respond to the threat of vehicular terrorism.

(4) Any additional activities the Secretary of Homeland Security recommends to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the threat of vehicular terrorism.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—The term "emergency response providers" has the meaning given such term in section 2(6) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(6)).

(2) VEHICULAR TERRORISM.—The term "vehicular terrorism" means any action that utilizes automotive transportation to inflict violence and intimidation on individuals for a political purpose.

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

Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

H.R. 4227 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the threat of vehicular terrorism and develop a strategy to improve DHS support for the efforts of emergency responders and the private sector to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such a threat.

Terror groups, including ISIS and al-Qaida, have urged supporters to carry out attacks in their home countries using any means necessary, including vehicle ramming. Terrorists and inspired homegrown extremists have heeded this directive and have carried out vehicle-based attacks in the past several years, including in France, England, Spain, Ohio, and, most recently, New York City.

The majority of prevention, mitigation, and response activities related to vehicle attacks are carried out by first responders and the private sector. DHS has existing resources and programs that can be better utilized to prepare frontline personnel in local communities to address this threat. This includes guidance related to the use of existing grant programs, increased information sharing, promoting suspicious activity reporting, increasing available exercises and training programs, dedicated research and development targeting mitigation measures, and utilizing critical infrastructure protection programs for vehicle ramming prevention.

H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act, requires the Secretary to develop a plan on how to improve and increase those capabilities. This bill passed by voice vote in the Committee on Homeland Security in early March.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative LATTA for his work on this important measure, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, terror groups have urged their supporters to carry out acts of violence by any means necessary, including by ramming a vehicle into a crowd. In fact, both ISIS and al-Qaida have published propaganda encouraging such vehicle-based terrorist attacks.

Sadly, over the past few years, vehicle-based terrorist attacks have been carried out at home and abroad, taking the lives and injuring too many innocent people. One of the most shocking attacks was carried out on July 14, 2016, when a truck plowed into a crowd celebrating France's Independence Day, which resulted in the deaths of 86 people and injured nearly 500.

More recently, in October of 2017, a driver took the lives of eight people when he purposely careened his truck into a path in Lower Manhattan that was full of pedestrians and cyclists.

This tactic has not confined itself to one ideological group. On August 12, 2017, a self-professed neo-Nazi drove his car into a crowd of counterprotestors demonstrating the march held by alt-right activists in Charlottesville, Virginia. The attack killed Heather D. Heyer and injured 35 others.

Just this month, a former Marine Corps reservist rammed his pickup truck into a convenience store in Watson, Louisiana. Later, we learned that he mistakenly believed the store was owned by Muslims.

To address this emerging threat, H.R. 4227 would require the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on support provided to emergency responders and private sector partners to counter the threat of vehicle-based attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I support this timely legislation and believe that enactment would improve DHS' efforts to prevent and reduce impacts of such attacks.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act.

This bipartisan legislation requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the activities the Department is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism and submit a strategy to Congress on its findings and recommendations.

Over the past several years, I have been alarmed with the increased frequency that terrorists in Europe and around the world have used vehicles—oftentimes, rental vans or trucks—to commit heinous acts of violence. From Paris to Barcelona and Jerusalem to London, at least 138 people have been killed and countless others injured because of these attacks.

With the October attack in New York City showing that these extremist

groups will not hesitate to carry out the same attack on American soil, it is critical that the Department of Homeland Security is doing their due diligence regarding this threat.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would specifically require DHS to assess the activities the Department is undertaking to support emergency response providers and the private sector to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the threat of vehicular terrorism.

Within 6 months of the bill's enactment, the Department must complete this assessment and submit to Congress a strategy that includes an examination of the current threat of vehicular terrorism, methods to improve information-sharing activities with emergency first responders and the private sector, and training activities the Department can undertake to prevent and prepare to respond to these attacks. The Secretary must also include any additional activities that DHS recommends to address the threat of vehicular terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Representative DONOVAN, and the entire House Homeland Security Committee for their work in advancing this bill to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking the next step to addressing this dangerous threat by passing H.R. 4227.

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

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of lone wolves who choose to ram vehicles into innocent people to advance their violent ideologies is a modern-day homeland security challenge. As threats to our homeland continue to evolve and as violent extremists continue to exploit soft targets, the risk to innocent bystanders grows. We must do our part to ensure that first responders in our cities, towns, and all places of living throughout the country have access to the necessary resources to keep themselves safe and secure. This legislation seeks to ensure that DHS does all it can to support such efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that this bill complements H.R. 5131, which is also being considered today and which directs DHS to disseminate best practices to stakeholders regarding ways to enhance transportation security against the threat of vehicle-based attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4227, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member THOMPSON.

I once again urge my fellow colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4227, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. 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.

DHS FIELD ENGAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5079) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5079

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 “DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH FUSION CENTERS.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended by—

(1) redesigning subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) FUSION CENTER INFORMATION SHARING STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall develop and update at least once every five years a strategy for Department engagement with fusion centers. Such strategy shall be developed and updated in consultation with the heads of intelligence components of the Department, the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department, officials of fusion centers, officers designated as Homeland Security Advisors, and the heads of other relevant agencies, as appropriate. Such strategy shall include the following:

“(1) Specific goals and objectives for sharing information and engaging with fusion centers—

“(A) through the direct deployment of personnel from intelligence components of the Department;

“(B) through the use of Department unclassified and classified information sharing systems, including the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network and the Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor systems; and

“(C) through any additional means.

“(2) The performance metrics to be used to measure success in achieving the goals and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

“(3) A five-year plan for continued engagement with fusion centers.”.

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS FIELD PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO FUSION CENTERS.

(a) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) consider the effectiveness of existing processes to identify and prepare field personnel for deployment to support fusion centers and internal mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability of such field personnel, including field personnel assigned to one center and field personnel assigned to multiple centers; and

(2) publish and disseminate performance metrics, taking into account, as appropriate, regional and threat diversity, for—

(A) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to an individual fusion center;

(B) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to multiple fusion centers; and

(C) regional Directors of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to ensure accountability for monitoring all field personnel under the supervision of such Regional Directors.

(b) TRAINING.—In consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall develop and implement a formalized training module for fusion center personnel regarding the classified Homeland Secure Data Network of the Department, or any successor system.

(c) FUSION CENTER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “fusion center” has the meaning given such term in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

SEC. 4. DHS COMPONENT USAGE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall—

(1) develop policies and metrics to ensure effective use by components of the Department of the Department's unclassified Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system; and

(2) develop policies for posting unclassified products on the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system.

(b) TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS.—The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, shall assess and implement, as appropriate, technical enhancements to the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network (HSIN) to improve usability, including search functionality, data analysis, and collaboration capabilities.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report on the implementation of the following:

(1) The fusion center information sharing strategy required under subsection (j) of section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h), as added by section 2 of this Act, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such strategy.

(2) Field personnel deployed to fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h)) in accordance with section 3, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such section.

(3) Policies that seek to ensure the effective use of the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network in accordance with section 4, based on the metrics developed pursuant to such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5079, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act. The sharing of counterterrorism and other homeland security information with State and local officials is vital in our efforts to protect the homeland.

Fusion centers as hubs for information sharing and analysis play a critical role in the domestic homeland security information-sharing environment. Over the years, there have been vast improvements in DHS' support for these key stakeholders, including the Nebraska Information Analysis Center, known as NIAC, in my home State of Nebraska.

H.R. 5079, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act, builds on ongoing efforts to hold DHS more accountable for supporting fusion centers and fully utilizing them as a resource to the Federal Government.

First, it requires DHS to develop a strategy for engagement with fusion centers. With the maturation of the national network, many fusion centers have adopted an all-threats, all-hazards mission to ensure they are keeping pace with the changing threat environment. A strategy that incorporates all the components of the Department will ensure DHS is supporting and leveraging fusion centers effectively and efficiently.

Second, this bill mandates performance metrics to hold DHS personnel in the field accountable. Among other responsibilities, these personnel serve as ambassadors of the Department and are integral in shaping and strengthening the relationship between fusion centers and DHS. As such, the Department must have appropriate performance objectives and metrics in place to ensure greater transparency in the expectations of these officers and accountability when issues arise.

Finally, this bill requires additional training and improvements for both the classified and unclassified information-sharing systems that the Department makes available to fusion centers and other law enforcement agencies.

While DHS has made strides in facilitating fusion center access to information and information systems, there are gaps in the Department's efforts to ensure these partners are adequately trained to utilize these systems.

So, for example, while all fusion centers now have access to DHS' classified HSDN, many fusion center personnel are not proficient in this system, and DHS does not currently provide any standardized, in-person HSDN training. Granting the appropriate clearances and credentials to access DHS systems is just as important as ensuring competency when using these systems.

Additionally, I have learned that many DHS components do not routinely share analytic products on the Homeland Security Information Network-Intelligence portal, and many documents are not posted on a timely basis.

□ 1645

It is incumbent on the Department to ensure the appropriate policies and metrics are in place to incentivize component use of this critical information-sharing program.

In that regard, I am pleased to report that, as of this month, both the Federal Protective Service and the United States Coast Guard have started participating on the HSIN-Intel Partner Products page. I encourage other components of the Department that do not participate to follow suit. This is a commonsense bill with bipartisan support that will enhance DHS' relationship with State and local fusion centers across the country.

In short, we have learned many lessons this past year in analyzing and studying fusion centers. This bill fixes the multiple problems that we have encountered.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5079, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

H.R. 5079 would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a fusion center engagement strategy. One of the tragic lessons of the September 11 attacks was what can happen when information is not shared at all levels of law enforcement.

Since 2006, the committee has supported the Department's efforts to deploy intelligence analysts to many of the 79 fusion centers across the country. These fusion centers are charged with connecting the dots at the State or local level to prevent terrorist or extremist violence. H.R. 5079 continues in this vein by directing DHS to focus on strengthening its relationship with the fusion centers.

At a time when violent attacks in Florida, New York, Las Vegas, and Charlottesville are tragically all too much a part of our new normal, we need this improved relationship between the Department and fusion centers more than ever.

In addition to requiring an engagement strategy, the bill requires DHS to have metrics in place to hold the personnel it deploys to fusion centers accountable for their performance.

Finally, this legislation seeks to encourage use of the Department's intelligence and document-sharing systems to promote greater engagement among the Department and fusion centers across the country.

Specifically, H.R. 5079 would create policies for information sharing via Department networks that are developed and updated in consultation with the Department's experts on privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

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

In closing, with the emergence of lone wolves and small terrorist cells, the decentralized terrorist threat in the United States poses serious threats to local communities across our country from big cities to small towns. Whether the target is a church in South Carolina, a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, a mosque in Illinois, a synagogue in New York, a concert venue in Las Vegas, or a school in Florida, State and local law enforcement need a clear line of communication with Federal agencies. As such, DHS must ensure that fusion centers throughout the country have access to the resources—including personnel, training, and access to information—necessary to keep the U.S. homeland safe and secure.

H.R. 5079 directs DHS to do just that by requiring the Department to have a strategy to enhance engagement with fusion centers and provide fusion center personnel. Additionally, H.R. 5079 would ensure that DHS' information-sharing policies include strong privacy and civil liberty safeguards. I, therefore, encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5079.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for her comments and her support making this bill a bipartisan bill. Part of the work that we are doing is we are going to improve 70 different fusion centers with this bill and standardize the performance of all of them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5079, 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.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5131) to improve the effectiveness of Federal efforts to identify and address homeland security risks to surface transportation, secure against vehicle-based attacks, and conduct a feasibility assessment of introducing new security technologies and measures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5131

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 "Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term "public and private sector stakeholders" has the meaning given such term in section 114(u)(1)(C) of title 49, United States Code.

(3) **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSET.**—The term "surface transportation asset" includes facilities, equipment, or systems used to provide transportation services by—

(A) a public transportation agency (as such term is defined in section 1402(5) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1131(5)));

(B) a railroad carrier (as such term is defined in section 20102(3) of title 49, United States Code);

(C) an owner or operator of—

(i) an entity offering scheduled, fixed-route transportation services by over-the-road bus (as such term is defined in section 1501(4) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1151(4))); or

(ii) a bus terminal; or

(D) other transportation facilities, equipment, or systems, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY REVIEW.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the degree to which the 2016 Biennial National Strategy for Transportation Security, as required pursuant to section 114(s) of title 49, United States Code, that was issued on August 11, 2016, by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, is reflected in Federal transportation security programs, budgets, research, staffing levels, and related efforts and, in carrying out such evaluation, shall consider the degree to which—

(1) such strategy is sufficiently forward-looking to guide future Federal efforts relating to transportation security;

(2) Federal transportation security programs, budgets, research, staffing levels, and related efforts for fiscal year 2018 and beyond are guided by such strategy; and

(3) the annual progress reports submitted to Congress pursuant to such section subse-

quent to the issuance of such strategy provide information on the degree to which such strategy guides Federal efforts relating to transportation security.

SEC. 4. RISK SCENARIOS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall annually develop, consistent with the transportation modal security plans required under section 114(s) of title 49, United States Code, risk-based priorities based on risk assessments conducted or received by the Secretary across all transportation modes that consider threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences.

(b) **SCENARIOS.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the risk-based priorities identified pursuant to subsection (a) are informed by an analysis of terrorist attack scenarios for each transportation mode, including cyber attack scenarios and intelligence and open source information about current and evolving threats.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after each development of risk-based priorities under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) Copies of the risk assessments for each transportation mode.

(2) A summary that ranks the risks within and across modes.

(3) A description of the risk-based priorities for securing the transportation sector that identifies and prioritizes the greatest security needs of such transportation sector, both across and within modes, in the order that such priorities should be addressed.

(4) Information on the underlying methodologies used to assess risks across and within each transportation mode and the basis for any assumptions regarding threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences made in assessing and prioritizing risks within each such mode and across modes.

(d) **CLASSIFICATION.**—The information provided under subsection (c) may be submitted in a classified format or unclassified format, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. ASSESSMENTS AND SECURITY PLANS; FRONTLINE EMPLOYEE SECURITY TRAINING.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security a report on—

(1) the status of regulations requiring assessments and security plans as specified in sections 1405, 1512, and 1531 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1134, 1162, and 1181) that includes a timeline for the issuance of a final rulemaking subsequent to the December 16, 2016, publication in the Federal Register of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking; and

(2) the status of regulations for a security training program to prepare transportation employees for potential security threats and conditions as specified in sections 1408, 1517, and 1534 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1137, 1167, and 1184) that includes a timeline for the issuance of a final rulemaking subsequent to the December 16, 2016, publication in the Federal Register of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

(b) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.**—Not later than 120 days after submission of the report under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a review of such report that includes information on—

(1) departmental efforts to finalize rule-making; and

(2) recommendations, as necessary, to ensure implementation of the regulations referred to in such subsection.

SEC. 6. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) EMERGING ISSUES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security and in coordination with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a feasibility assessment of modifying the security of surface transportation assets by—

(1) introducing next generation technologies to be integrated into systems of surface transportation assets to detect explosives, including through the deployment of mobile explosives detection technologies to conduct risk-based passenger and property screening at such systems;

(2) providing surface transportation asset operators with access to the Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program or a similar passenger vetting system maintained by the Transportation Security Administration;

(3) deploying a credential authentication technology or other means of identification document inspection to high-risk surface transportation assets to assist operators conducting passenger vetting; and

(4) deploying scalable, cost-effective technology solutions to detect chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive threats within high-risk surface transportation assets that are capable of passive, continuous, and real-time sensing and detection of, and alerting passengers and operating personnel to, the presence of such a threat.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the assessment required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security and in coordination with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall address the technological, privacy, operational, passenger facilitation, and public acceptance considerations involved with each security measure contemplated in such assessment.

SEC. 7. BEST PRACTICES TO SECURE AGAINST VEHICLE-BASED ATTACKS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall disseminate best practices to public and private sector stakeholders regarding how to enhance transportation security against the threat of a vehicle-based terrorist attack.

SEC. 8. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDER SURVEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin conducting a survey of public and private stakeholders responsible for securing surface transportation assets regarding resource challenges, including the availability of Federal funding, associated with securing such assets that provides an opportunity for respondents to set forth information on specific unmet needs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after beginning the survey required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the results of such survey and the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to address any identified security vulnerabilities.

SEC. 9. INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may establish a task force to collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders to identify and develop an innovative technology or capability with the potential to enhance transportation security, including by—

(1) conducting a field demonstration of such a technology or capability in an operational environment;

(2) gathering performance data from such a demonstration to inform the acquisition process; and

(3) to the extent practicable, providing funding and promoting efforts to enable participation in a demonstration by a small business that has an innovative technology or capability but does not have adequate resources to participate in a field demonstration under paragraph (1).

(b) COMPOSITION.—The task force authorized under subsection (a) shall be chaired by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration's designee and comprised of representatives appointed by the Administrator, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49, United States Code).

(c) ACTIVITIES.—The chair of the task force shall—

(1) evaluate technologies and capabilities for field demonstrations with potential to enhance surface transportation security, in addition to technologies and capabilities with potential to enhance aviation security;

(2) coordinate with the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to leverage such technologies and capabilities; and

(3) submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security an annual report regarding the task force's activities that identifies, for each such technology or capability, what mode of transportation could be enhanced by the integration of such technology or capability into security operations and, as appropriate, plans for deploying such technology or capability.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to acquire an innovative technology or capability.

(e) NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the task force.

SEC. 10. SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES TIED TO FOREIGN THREAT COUNTRIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of terrorist and other threats to the transportation sector, including surface transportation assets, posed by the use of security technologies, including software and networked technologies, developed or manufactured by firms that are owned or closely linked to the governments of countries that are known to pose a cyber or homeland security threat.

SEC. 11. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY INSPECTORS.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States

a strategy to guide operations of surface transportation security inspectors that addresses the following:

(1) Any limitations in data systems for such inspectors, as identified by the Comptroller General.

(2) Alignment of operations with risk assessment findings, including an approach to identifying and prioritizing entities and locations for inspections.

(3) Measurable objectives for the surface transportation security inspectors program.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the strategy required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall review such strategy and, as appropriate, issue recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5131, the Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018, as amended.

As you may be aware, TSA was created in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11. While the impetus behind its creation was the threat to aviation security, TSA is responsible for securing all transportation modes, including surface transportation assets such as railroads, mass transit, pipelines, buses, and ports. Given the persistent threats facing aviation in the post-9/11 era, TSA's main focus has been securing the aviation sector. However, in recent years, threats emanating against surface transportation modes, especially mass transit hubs, have steadily increased.

Attacks against these surface targets often require less sophistication than attacks against aviation, making them especially attractive to lone wolves or homegrown violent extremists.

Surface transportation systems are also a very attractive target due to their large volume of daily ridership and open infrastructure. The most recent example of an attack targeting surface is the attempted suicide bombing in December 2017 at New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Given the current threat environment, a review of TSA's approach to securing all transportation modes and an assessment of the degree to which surface transportation security should be prioritized is certainly warranted. Specifically, this bill mandates a GAO review of the national strategy for transportation security, the development of risk-based priorities for all

transportation modes, and a feasibility assessment of utilizing security technologies for surface transportation assets.

Furthermore, the bill requires TSA to disseminate best practices for enhancing security against vehicle-based terrorist attacks and authorizes a surface-focused Innovation Task Force.

Finally, the bill requires a threat assessment of certain security technologies tied to foreign countries and a strategy for TSA's surface transportation inspectors. In the face of emerging threats, it is imperative that Congress ensure TSA is adequately executing its mission to protect all transportation modes, not just aviation.

I thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, for authoring this legislation, as well as the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. KATKO, for his support and leadership on this issue.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5131, the Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation's surface transportation systems are central to Americans' daily life. Subways, buses, trains, and pipelines move millions of people and goods every day. Given their criticality, it is no surprise that terrorists have targeted these systems for attack. In recent years, attacks overseas have proven lethal, even more so, on average, than attacks against aviation. In December 2017, the threat against these systems hit home when a would-be attacker detonated a bomb within New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal subway station.

My bill, H.R. 5131, would require the Department of Homeland Security to take meaningful steps to address this emerging threat. First, it would require TSA to take a more comprehensive approach to transportation threats when it comes to assessing risk and setting strategies and priorities. Second, it would require TSA to take a hard look at integrating new technologies and security measures into mass transit and other surface transportation systems.

Importantly, H.R. 5131 also would require DHS to assess cyber threats posed by foreign technologies and to disseminate best practices for securing transportation systems against vehicle-based attacks, such as the truck attack we witnessed in New York City last October.

Finally, it would require TSA to develop a risk-based strategy for its surface inspectors and answer to Congress for its failure to issue long overdue regulations that are required by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

Consideration of H.R. 5131 today is timely, given the cuts to surface trans-

portation security programs proposed by the President in both the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure to improve surface transportation security.

In closing, as we have seen around the world, the threats to surface transportation systems are real and evolving. A major attack on any one system could be devastating and result in significant loss of life. My bill will push TSA to increase and enhance its efforts to secure these critical systems.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this. I appreciate the support from my colleague and the support from Mr. KATKO.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to commend the gentlewoman from New Jersey's work on this bill and Mr. KATKO, the chairman of the subcommittee.

This is obviously very important. Airports aren't the only target. We have bus transportation, we have seen those targeted in Europe; our rail centers are also targets. We have seen that in Europe, and we have seen indications of those attacks being planned here as well.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5131, the "Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018," which would increase the nation's readiness to deal with national security threats.

H.R. 5131 requires the Government Accountability Office to review the effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration's Biennial National Strategy for Transportation Security.

H.R. 5131 would also require the Department of Homeland Security to develop risk-based priorities across all transportation modes.

This would be informed by analysis of terrorist attack scenarios for each mode of transportation.

The work directly under this will also include cyber-attack scenarios, which poses an increasing threat to the well-being of our public and private infrastructures.

H.R. 5131 requires DHS to explain overdue surface transportation security rulemakings and the Inspector General to review DHS's explanations, and report on its findings.

It directs DHS to conduct a feasibility assessment of introducing next generation technologies to detect threats to surface transportation systems.

DHS would also disseminate best practices for enhancing transportation security against the threat of vehicle-based attacks.

The bill also requires DHS to conduct and report to Congress on a survey of surface transportation stakeholders regarding resource challenges, including the availability of Federal funding and specific unmet needs.

It authorizes a TSA task force to identify and develop innovative technologies and capabilities to enhance transportation security, including surface transportation security.

It also directs DHS to assess the threats posed by the use of security technologies developed or manufactured by firms owned or closely linked to the governments of countries known to pose cyber or homeland security threats.

This is extremely important given the ongoing threats to our democracy from a rising number of malevolent global actors, including North Korea and Russia.

Finally, the bill requires the TSA to develop a strategy to guide surface transportation security inspector operations, which would be subject to GAO review.

In sum, H.R. 5131 enhances TSA's surface transportation security operations across a range of activities, while taking into consideration the role of computers in the modernization of our nation's transportation systems.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESTES of Kansas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5131, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BACON. 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.

STRENGTHENING AVIATION SECURITY ACT OF 2018

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4467) to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4467

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 "Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. USE OF RISK-BASED STRATEGIES BY FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 44917 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

"(9) shall require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize a risk-based strategy when allocating resources between international and domestic flight coverage, including when initially setting its annual target numbers of average daily international and domestic flights to cover;

"(10) shall require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize a risk-based strategy to support domestic allocation decisions;

"(11) shall require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize a risk-based strategy to

support international allocation decisions; and

“(12) shall ensure that the seating arrangements of Federal air marshals on aircraft are determined in a manner that is risk-based and most capable of responding to current threats to aviation security.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes the compliance of the Federal Air Marshal Service with the requirements specified in paragraphs (9) through (12) of subsection (a) of section 44917 of title 49, United States Code, as added by this Act, and the documented methodology used by the Federal Air Marshal Service to conduct risk assessments in accordance with such paragraphs.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Transportation Security Administration shall begin carrying out the requirements specified in paragraphs (9) through (12) of subsection (a) of section 44917, United States Code, added by this Act, by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACON. 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 any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4467, the Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2018.

Described by Chairman MCCAUL in his State of National Security Address as “the crown jewel of ISIS and other terrorist groups,” the American aviation industry remains a key target of terrorism.

The Transportation Security Administration has made great strides in securing commercial flights, but the threat of evolving terror tactics requires a comprehensive, multilateral approach informed by data collected from industry.

The TSA’s risk management strategy for passenger aviation security is characterized by a multilayered approach, whereby the TSA deploys a variety of security countermeasures to detect and deter threats.

Federal air marshals, also known as FAMs, are armed law enforcement officers deployed on passenger flights as part of the TSA’s comprehensive secu-

rity strategy to protect air passengers and crews against criminals and terrorists.

Due to the high volume of passenger flights and limited resources at the TSA, it is imperative that FAM deployment is risk-based and strategic in order to achieve the greatest security value. However, a recent GAO report from September 2017 found that the TSA does not measure data on the efficacy and deterrence value of FAMs.

Without viable metrics, it is impossible for the TSA to truly employ a calculated risk management strategy for passenger aviation security. Accordingly, the Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2018 requires the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies for international and domestic flight coverage.

This bill ensures that FAMs are deployed in a manner that adds strategic value to the TSA’s multilayered security approach. As amended, the bill also requires the TSA to take their risk-based approach a step further by ensuring that FAMs are seated in tactical positions when deployed on the aircraft.

Strategic seating arrangements will provide FAMs with a distinct advantage in the event of a threat to aviation security and ensure that they are more relevant to the important mission for which they are tasked.

The Strengthening Aviation Security Act emphasizes the importance of intelligence-driven, risk-based decisions to make the best use of the Federal Air Marshal Service’s resources and personnel.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) for authoring this legislation, as well the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. KATKO, for his work on this bill. Additionally, I wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for moving the bill through the committee process.

This bill will promote public confidence in the security of the Nation’s aviation system and ensure that armed Federal law enforcement officers are deployed on passenger flights, where they are most needed.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4467, the Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over 16 years since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Since that time, our transportation security systems have evolved in a number of ways, from the creation of the TSA to the hardening of cockpit doors. An important change to security has been the evolution of the Federal Air Marshal Service. Federal air marshals are armed law enforcement officers who are deployed on domestic and international passenger flights to protect passengers and crew against terrorist attacks.

On 9/11, the FAA employed a small number of Federal air marshals to serve as in-flight security on a small percentage of flights. After 9/11, the Federal Air Marshal Service expanded rapidly; and, in 2005, it was transferred to the TSA, where it operates today.

Today, air marshals contribute to aviation security by deploying on many domestic and international flights. They also help secure surface transportation systems and public airport areas as major participants in the TSA’s Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response—or VIPR—teams.

To ensure the continued effectiveness of the air marshals, H.R. 4467 requires the TSA to ensure that officers are deployed in a risk-based manner that is focused on maximizing effectiveness. As amended, the bill also ensures risk-based seating of air marshals on passenger aircraft to enable officers to respond effectively to security threats.

This is a sensible bill to improve aviation security, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4467, the Strengthening Aviation Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, last year, I learned that, while the Federal Air Marshal Service considers its travel budget and the number of personnel when determining which flights will be covered by air marshals, they do not consider risk.

This current system might maximize the number of flights covered by air marshals, but it does not ensure that the highest risk flights—those likely to be hijacked by a potential terrorist—would be covered by air marshals. The Strengthening Aviation Security Act would fix this flawed policy by requiring the Federal Air Marshal Service to incorporate risk in its deployment strategy in three ways:

First, this legislation requires the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize a risk-based strategy when allocating resources between international and domestic flight coverage. Currently, the Federal Air Marshal Service does not account for risk when it sets its annual target numbers of average international and domestic flights to cover.

Second, this legislation requires the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize a risk-based strategy to support domestic allocation decisions. Currently, these decisions are made based on the professional judgment of subject matter experts. Without documented risk assessments, the Federal Air Marshal Service cannot justify to the TSA, the Department of Homeland Security, or Congress why it chooses to deploy air marshals on certain flights and not on others.

Third, this legislation requires the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize

a risk-based strategy to support international allocation decisions.

Shockingly, the Federal Air Marshal Service does not currently document the rationales for their international allocation decisions. Without this documentation, there is no verifiable method to determine whether the decisions are intelligence-driven, risk-based, or even in compliance with the TSA or DHS directives. Unless the Federal Air Marshal Service accounts for risk at every level of its deployment strategy, it cannot ensure that it is devoting its resources to cover the high-risk flights.

It is incumbent upon us in Congress to address any vulnerabilities to our national security and to enable our Federal agencies to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt any attacks planned by our enemies, and this legislation does just that.

I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Chairman KATKO for their strong support of this legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, the threats to aviation continue to require constant vigilance and effective security solutions.

The Federal Air Marshal Service does not have unlimited budgetary resources to deploy marshals on every passenger flight. As such, resources must be allocated based on risk. H.R. 4467 will help ensure that the TSA does just that, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes total sense. If you are going to use Federal air marshals where they are needed most, it should be analytical and scientific-based so that we get the most bang for the buck.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4467, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BACON. 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.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CAPABILITIES ACT OF 2018

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

(H.R. 5089) to improve threat information sharing, integrated operations, and law enforcement training for transportation security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5089

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 “Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “public and private sector stakeholders” has the meaning given such term in section 114(u)(1)(C) of title 49, United States Code.

(2) **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSET.**—The term “surface transportation asset” includes facilities, equipment, or systems used to provide transportation services by—

(A) a public transportation agency (as such term is defined in section 1402(5) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1131(5)));;

(B) a railroad carrier (as such term is defined in section 20102(3) of title 49, United States Code);

(C) an owner or operator of—

(i) an entity offering scheduled, fixed-route transportation services by over-the-road bus (as such term is defined in section 1501(4) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1151(4))); or

(ii) a bus terminal; or

(D) other transportation facilities, equipment, or systems, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) **TRANSPORTATION FACILITY.**—The term “transportation facility” means a bus terminal, intercity or commuter passenger rail station, airport, multi-modal transportation center, or other transportation facility, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. THREAT INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts under section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) from the Transportation Security Administration and, as appropriate, from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset in order to enhance the security of such assets, including by improving timely sharing of classified information regarding terrorist and other threats.

(b) **INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS.**—Officers and intelligence analysts assigned to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers under this section shall participate in the generation and dissemination of transportation security intelligence products, with an emphasis on terrorist and other threats to surface transportation assets that—

(1) assist State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in deploying their resources, including personnel, most efficiently to help detect, prevent, investigate, apprehend, and respond to terrorist and other threats;

(2) promote more consistent and timely sharing of threat information among jurisdictions; and

(3) enhance the Department of Homeland Security’s situational awareness of such terrorist and other threats.

(c) **CLEARANCES.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make available to appropriate owners and operators of surface transportation assets, and any other person that the Secretary determines appropriate to foster greater sharing of classified information relating to terrorist and other threats to surface transportation assets, the process of application for security clearances under Executive Order 13549 (75 Fed. Reg. 162; relating to a classified national security information program) or any successor Executive order.

SEC. 4. INTEGRATED AND UNIFIED OPERATIONS CENTERS.

(a) **FRAMEWORK.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate offices or components of the Department of Homeland Security, shall make available to public and private sector stakeholders a framework for establishing an integrated and unified operations center responsible for overseeing daily operations of a transportation facility that promotes coordination for responses to terrorism, serious incidents, and other purposes, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate regarding the establishment and activities of integrated and unified operations centers at transportation facilities at which the Transportation Security Administration has a presence.

SEC. 5. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TRAINING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with public and private sector stakeholders, may develop, through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, a training program to enhance the protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of law enforcement agencies with respect to terrorism and other serious incidents at a surface transportation asset.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security develops the training program described in subsection (a), such training program shall—

(1) be informed by current information regarding terrorist tactics;

(2) include tactical instruction tailored to the diverse nature of the surface transportation asset operational environment; and

(3) prioritize training officers from law enforcement agencies that are eligible for or receive grants under sections 2003 or 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604 and 605) and officers employed by railroad carriers that operate passenger service, including interstate passenger service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5089, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018.

As evidenced by recent attacks in New York, London, and elsewhere around the world, the threat against surface transportation is real and unwavering. While the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration, and other Federal entities have made significant progress in providing support to State and local surface transportation assets, the current threat environment necessitates a coordinated approach.

Intelligence sharing is the backbone of informed, risk-based security, yet the top-down dissemination of this information is often stymied by bureaucracy and classification barriers.

This begs the question: How effective is intelligence collection and analysis if it does not reach the front line and inform subsequent decisionmaking?

H.R. 5089, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018, requires the DHS Secretary to prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts and, as appropriate, the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis—or I&A—to fusion centers in jurisdictions with high-risk surface transportation assets.

High-risk surface transportation assets transport millions of people and commodities daily and are critical for the vitality of the American economy. This legislation will streamline and enhance the intelligence-sharing process so these high-risk systems are better prepared to be resilient against emerging threats.

A common complaint from owners, operators, law enforcement, and first responders is that the TSA, and the Federal Government in general, does not provide sufficient information for them to adequately prepare for threats. This is primarily due to issues surrounding classification, where key personnel at the State and local levels do not have access to pertinent security information.

As such, this bill requires the Secretary to make security clearances available to appropriate stakeholders, thereby making important and relevant threat information more accessible to the people who are heavily involved in the day-to-day security operations of surface transportation systems.

H.R. 5089 also requires the TSA Administrator to share with owners and operators a framework for unified operation centers to ensure robust response to security incidents.

Recent terror attacks and plots illustrate the challenges of effective coordination in a “system of systems.” This

bill will streamline coordination efforts between Federal, State, and local entities to bring the right information to the right people.

The interconnected, diverse, and readily accessible nature of surface transportation systems creates unique security challenges that are best addressed by communication, coordination, and collaboration.

H.R. 5089 will create a structural framework to connect the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration, and surface transportation stakeholders, and it will facilitate timely information sharing.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for her leadership on this issue. I also thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, Mr. KATKO, as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, for their dedication to improving surface transportation security.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 5089, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, in 2013, my home airport, Los Angeles International Airport, came under attack when a gunman opened fire at a TSA security checkpoint, killing TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez and injuring many others.

□ 1715

This shooting was just one of several recent attacks on relatively soft targets such as public airport areas and surface transportation systems.

In the wake of the shooting at LAX, Congress passed the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, which made several important security improvements, including directing airports in high-risk surface transportation systems to install incident response plans and requiring TSA to provide active-shooter training to all of its screening personnel. Now, over 2 years later, it is time to take the next step in improving security for these soft targets. Enactment of my bill, H.R. 5089, is that next step. H.R. 5089 is focused on enhancing the capabilities of local transportation security stakeholders to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other serious incidents.

State and local stakeholders, including transit system owners and operators and law enforcement agencies, play a significant role in securing surface transportation systems against threats; yet many stakeholders cite a lack of sufficient information from TSA and the Federal Government to adequately prepare for these threats.

The Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018

requires DHS to prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts to fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset, thus improving information sharing.

Further, it directs TSA to make a framework available to stakeholders for establishing operation centers responsible for overseeing daily operations of transportation facilities, allowing for improved communications.

Finally, it authorizes DHS to develop a training program through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies operating at surface transportation assets.

Taken together, the provisions build upon previous efforts to secure our transportation systems by enhancing protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of State and local partners working to protect these critical systems.

Mr. Speaker, the shooting at LAX, along with attacks on surface transportation systems and public airport areas in New Orleans, Fort Lauderdale, New York City, and overseas have proven that acts of terror are not limited to the aviation sector. To effectively address threats to surface transportation systems, State and local stakeholders must be able to communicate not only with TSA and the Federal Government, but amongst themselves during an incident. My bill seeks to bridge potential gaps in communication and coordination capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5089, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we have important information we can't serve to the right decisionmakers at the local level, we fail, which we have learned from 9/11 and other places where information is bottled up and doesn't get to the people who need it. This bill helps solve that.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection to speak in strong support of H.R. 5089, “the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018.”

Thank you Representative BARRAGÁN for introducing this important measure, as former Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection I understand the value and importance of this bill.

I have long supported bolstering our Nation's transportation system security through improving coordination of local jurisdictions with federal law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 5089 does just that by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize the detailing of personnel from the Transportation Security Administration and the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis to be stationed with participating state, local, and-regional fusion center in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset.

In 2013, the Port of Houston which receives over 200 million tons of cargo a year was the 8th busiest container port in the nation.

Houston, also home to George Bush International Airport, the 14th busiest airport in the nation, will benefit directly from the resources provided in H.R. 5089.

Our transportation system facilitates economic growth through creating jobs, transporting goods, and connecting communities to one another.

This bill requires officers and analysts to participate in the generation and dissemination of transportation security intelligence products.

Additionally, H.R. 5089 directs TSA to make available to public and private sector stakeholders a framework for establishing integrated and unified operations centers responsible for overseeing daily operations of transportation facilities to promote coordination for responses to terrorism and other serious incidents.

Finally, it authorizes DHS to develop, through Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, a training program to enhance the protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of law enforcement agencies with respect to terrorism and other serious incidents at surface transportation assets.

Taken together, the bill's provisions enhance the capabilities of local transportation security stakeholders to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other serious incidents.

We should support this effort to improve our National security and transportation capabilities against terrorism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5089.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5089, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BACON. 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.

KENNEDY-KING NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4851) to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4851

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 "Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(2) SITE.—The term "Site" means the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site as designated by section 3(a).

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Indiana.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Landmark for Peace Memorial in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Indianapolis, in the State, is hereby designated as the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site.

(b) AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK.—The Site shall be part of the African American Civil Rights Network established under Public Law 115-104.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities for interpretative and educational purposes related to the Site.

(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The Site shall not be a unit of the National Park System.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this Act—

(A) authorizes the Secretary to interfere with the rights of any person with respect to private property or any local zoning ordinance or land use plan of the State or any political subdivision thereof; or

(B) authorizes the Secretary to acquire land or interests in land through condemnation or otherwise.

(d) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the Site to evaluate the national significance of the Site and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Site as a unit of the National Park System. The Secretary shall also consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Site by Federal, State, or local government entities, or private and non-profit groups. The study shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code. Not later than three years after the date on which funds are made available to conduct the study, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes the results of the study and any recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4851, introduced by Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON and cosponsored by Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS, would establish the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Additionally, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to include the site in the newly established African American Civil Rights Network, and it authorizes a special resource study to evaluate the national significance of the site and determine the suitability

and feasibility of including the site as a unit of the National Park system.

On April 4, 1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy had scheduled a speech in Indianapolis during his campaign for the Presidency of the United States. Just prior to giving his remarks, Mr. Kennedy was informed of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He then changed his planned remarks to, instead, inform the large gathering of Dr. King's death.

In this historic speech, he called upon Americans to embrace non-violence in reaction to the news of Dr. King's assassination. Senator Kennedy stated: "What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love and wisdom and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be White or whether they be Black."

The site where Senator Kennedy delivered the speech is currently located in a city park established in 1961 and has since served as a community gathering place. In 1994, the Landmark for Peace Memorial sculpture was erected on the site of Senator Kennedy's speech. April 4, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of Robert Kennedy's speech and Dr. King's assassination.

I commend Representative CARSON and Representative BROOKS for working across the aisle on this bipartisan and important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative HANABUSA for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 4851, the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site Act. I also thank my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for their very prompt consideration of this bill, including Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4851 is a bipartisan and bicameral bill with the full support of the entire congressional delegation, including my good friend and colleague Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS; including my mentor, one of my heroes, Representative JOHN LEWIS; and my buddy, Representative JOE KENNEDY. I thank them for joining the delegation of original cosponsors of Hoosiers.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site Act at the request of my constituents to provide formal National Park Service recognition to the site where Senator Robert F. Kennedy gave an extraordinary speech in Indianapolis in the spring of 1968.

This recognition, as well as addition to the African American Civil Rights

Network, will help this location—set on a community board over there—remain visible and accessible for the inspiration of present and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues may have heard the story, as it was previously mentioned by my other colleague, that Robert Kennedy had a scheduled speech in the great Hoosier State in the city of Indianapolis during his campaign for the Presidency. However, just before he was to give those remarks, Mr. Speaker, he was told of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Before the news became widely known, his advisers said he shouldn't speak at all. They suggested he should stand back. But Robert F. Kennedy wanted to speak. Despite the risks of outbursts or interruptions, he had something important to say in person and face-to-face for all who were gathered.

He changed his planned remarks on the fly and broke the news of Dr. King's assassination to the large crowd assembled in the park. He called for a nonviolent response to Dr. King's death. Robert Kennedy's speech has been described as one of the greatest addresses of the 20th century, as a call for unity and nonviolence in a time of great unrest.

Mr. Speaker, I include the text of the speech in today's RECORD.

FULL TEXT OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S SPEECH:
INDIANAPOLIS, APRIL 4, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm only going to talk to you just for a minute or so this evening, because I have some very sad news for all of you. Could you lower those signs, please? I have some very sad news for all of you, and, I think, sad news for all of our fellow citizens, and people who love peace all over the world; and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee.

Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice between fellow human beings. He died in the cause of that effort. In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it's perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in.

For those of you who are black considering the evidence evidently is that there were white people who were responsible you can be filled with bitterness, and with hatred, and a desire for revenge.

We can move in that direction as a country, in greater polarization black people amongst blacks, and white amongst whites, filled with hatred toward one another. Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand, and to comprehend, and replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand, compassion, and love.

For those of you who are black and are tempted to fill with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed, but he was killed by a white man.

But we have to make an effort in the United States. We have to make an effort to understand, to get beyond, or go beyond these rather difficult times.

My favorite poet was Aeschylus. And he once wrote:

Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget
falls drop by drop upon the heart,
until, in our own despair,
against our will,
comes wisdom
through the awful grace of God.

What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love, and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black.

So I ask you tonight to return home, to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King yeah, it's true but more importantly to say a prayer for our own country, which all of us love a prayer for understanding and that compassion of which I spoke.

We can do well in this country. We will have difficult times. We've had difficult times in the past, but we and we will have difficult times in the future. It is not the end of violence; it is not the end of lawlessness; and it's not the end of disorder.

But the vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings that abide in our land.

And let's dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world. Let us dedicate ourselves to that, and say a prayer for our country and for our people.

Thank you very much.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 50th anniversary of RFK's speech, it becomes very clear that America needs this national treasure to be preserved and promoted beyond the residents of Indianapolis. This powerful message of nonviolence in response to violence is more timely and important than ever.

The Smithsonian has described 1968 as "the year that shattered America." It was a time when divisions were sharp and the morale of this country was low. Many stirred up hatred and fear with venomous rhetoric, which drove people long left out of America's bounty to the limits of their very humanity. Many cities erupted in flames and violent riots.

When other cities expressed their justified pain, anger, and disenfranchisement with destruction, Robert Kennedy's calm voice of reason changed the hearts and minds of people who were feeling so much pain. Indianapolis was the only major city in America that did not burn in that season of pain and violent disruption.

JFK was assassinated. Martin Luther King was assassinated. And just 2 months after RFK's emotional speech in Indianapolis, he, too, was assassinated. But in his youth and his ability to feel the pain of others, RFK called on those who were hurting to turn away from violence and hate and practice what MLK practiced.

This message and this special place needs to be shared with all Americans across the country today and into the future. The amendment approved by the committee will add the Kennedy-

King site to a new civil rights network, Mr. Speaker, and it will designate the location as a commemorative site.

This is a timely first step, and I look forward to seeing the bill signed into law this year. And after this step, our constituents and I will continue to count on congressional support for our efforts to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park system in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my good friend, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this great bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS).

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 50 years ago, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee. That same night, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was scheduled to deliver a campaign speech in Indianapolis, the city which my friend and colleague, Representative ANDRÉ CARSON, and I both represent in Congress.

Instead, Senator Kennedy broke the news to Hoosiers about what had just happened. His speech calmed a volatile crowd and called for a nonviolent reaction to the assassination. He pleaded with the crowd to remain committed to the ideals and peaceful movement of Dr. King during a time of turmoil, confusion, and despair. It has been called one of the most important and historic speeches of the 20th century.

Unlike other cities which erupted into violence and riots following Dr. King's assassination, Indianapolis did not burn. The hallowed grounds where Senator Kennedy's remarks were delivered is known in Indianapolis as Kennedy-King Park.

□ 1730

Thanks to H.R. 4851, it will be given the national recognition it deserves for its significance in the civil rights movement. I am proud to support this legislation to honor this historic moment.

I thank Chairman BISHOP; Ranking Member GRIJALVA; especially my colleague and good friend from across the aisle, Representative CARSON, who has led the charge to recognize this park.

Before I close, I want to share a small portion of the words shared by Senator Kennedy just about 50 years ago that I think we cannot recite enough in this country:

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice towards those who still suffer within our country."

As my good friend has just said, Senator Kennedy's words are still very relevant today. Maybe even more relevant

today. I encourage all of my colleagues to remember and reflect upon them as we approach the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am also happy to share that anyone traveling to or from Indianapolis in the coming weeks will be able to hear and read Senator Kennedy's remarks at an exhibition prominently displayed at the Indianapolis International Airport to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in April. I am proud that this body will be adding this special place to the African American Civil Rights Network.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4851 establishes the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site in Indianapolis to honor the site where Robert F. Kennedy gave a stirring speech shortly after learning of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. The speech was a moment of unification and a rallying cry to remain committed to the values of nonviolent resistance preached by Dr. King.

The location of the speech has become a source of pride and inspiration for the local community, so much so that they named the park after Dr. King and developed the Landmark for Peace Memorial to commemorate Senator Kennedy's moving remarks. Designating the memorial as a national commemorative site is a fitting tribute and honor to the legacies of both Dr. King and Senator Kennedy.

I thank Representatives CARSON and BROOKS and the entire Indiana delegation for their hard work moving this bill through the legislative process. I support the adoption of this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4851, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. 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.

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT MAP MODIFICATION

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 835) to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 835

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

SECTION 1. MAP UPDATE; MAXIMUM ACREAGE AVAILABLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

The first section of Public Law 91-60 (83 Stat. 101) is amended—

(1) by striking “entitled ‘Proposed Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument’, numbered NM-FFB-7100, and dated March 1967, and more particularly described by metes and bounds in an attachment to that map,” and inserting “entitled ‘Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Proposed Boundary Adjustment’, numbered 171/132,544, and dated May 3, 2016,”; and

(2) by striking “six thousand acres” and inserting “6,300 acres”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 835 is a bill that I am very pleased to have introduced with bipartisan support from my friends, Congressman SCOTT TIPTON and Congressman JARED POLIS, both of Colorado. Specifically, H.R. 835 would increase the current 6,000 acres to 6,300 acres and allow the National Park Service to accept the donation of 280 acres currently being held by the Palmer Land Trust and Coalition for the Upper South Platte into the monument's boundaries.

The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was designated by Congress in 1969 to preserve and study one of the most diverse fossil deposits in the world and to interpret its geologic significance.

Located in a high mountain valley just west of Pikes Peak in my congressional district and 35 miles west of Colorado Springs, Colorado, the monument features detailed fossils of insects, plants, and giant petrified redwood stumps that teach visitors about prehistoric Colorado.

The park also maintains a collection of over 12,000 fossil specimens, conducts inventory and monitoring of the fossil sites, has ongoing collaborations, and continues to be the subject of scientific publications. Many of these extraordinary fossils from the monument can be found in some of the most prominent natural history museums in the world, with the largest exhibit of per-

haps 10,000 specimens located close by here in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

The monument also offers a variety of recreational experiences, including sightseeing, stargazing, interpretive visitor center exhibits, hiking, picnicking, daily ranger-guided programs during the summer, junior ranger programs, and curriculum-based education programs for visiting school groups. It is truly an excellent addition to the National Park Service.

Expanding the monument will provide critical access to the park's western boundary for wildfire protection and opportunities for completing future hazardous fuel mitigation projects, while also providing additional wildlife habitat. In addition, the donated acreage could, and will, provide visitors with more recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and wildlife watching, all with no supplement funding or staff needed.

The proposed monument boundary expansion has received unanimous local support from all stakeholders; including, the State of Colorado, the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Sanborn Western Camps, Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Palmer Land Trust, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, the Pikes Peak Historical Society, and the Teller County Board of Commissioners.

This bipartisan bill is a great example for how the Antiquities Act should be applied, with strong local support, consensus, and engagement to identify and conserve the “smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”

That language, Mr. Speaker, is from the original Antiquities Act itself.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill expands the boundaries of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado to include an additional 300 acres. The expanded boundary will further the monument's paleontological research objectives and facilitate access for projects designed to decrease wildfire risk, a critical issue in this forested region. During our subcommittee hearing on this bill, we heard that the expansion is broadly supported by the local community and a critical addition to a monument that was established, thanks to enormous public interest in preserving a unique natural treasure.

The story of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is an excellent example of the importance of conservation, and it is encouraging that we can work together in a bipartisan fashion to further this mission. I want to congratulate Representative LAMBORN for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to encourage the Members to please support this wonderful bill.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Hawaii for her support and great work in committee. This is something that has a lot of bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 835.

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. LAMBORN. 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.

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-102)

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 Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Uruguay, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay," and the accompanying legally binding administrative arrangement, titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed at Montevideo, Uruguay, on January 10, 2017.

The Agreements are similar in objective and content to the social security totalization agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and, pursuant to section 233(c)(4), other provisions which I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. Also included are a summary of the main provisions and an annotated version of the Agreements with descriptions of each article. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend to the Congress the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Administrative Arrangement between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

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 43 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. WEBER of Texas) 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 motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 835, by the yeas and nays; and
H.R. 4851, by the yeas and nays.

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

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT MAP MODIFICATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 835) to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, 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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 3, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 115]

YEAS—385

Abraham	Curbelo (FL)	Hollingsworth
Adams	Curtis	Hoyer
Aderholt	Davidson	Hudson
Aguilar	Davis (CA)	Huffman
Allen	Davis, Rodney	Huizenga
Amodei	DeFazio	Hultgren
Arrington	DeGette	Hunter
Babin	Delaney	Hurd
Bacon	DeLauro	Issa
Banks (IN)	DelBene	Jayapal
Barletta	Demings	Jeffries
Barr	Denham	Jenkins (KS)
Barragán	Dent	Johnson (GA)
Barton	DeSantis	Johnson (LA)
Bass	DeSaulnier	Johnson (OH)
Bera	DesJarlais	Johnson, E. B.
Bergman	Deutch	Johnson, Sam
Beyer	Diaz-Balart	Jordan
Bilirakis	Dingell	Joyce (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Kaptur
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Keating
Bishop (UT)	Doyle, Michael F.	Kelly (MS)
Blum	Duffy	Kelly (PA)
Blumenauer	Duncan (TN)	Kennedy
Blunt Rochester	Dunn	Khanna
Bonamici	Emmer	Kihuen
Bost	Engel	Kildee
Boyle, Brendan F.	Españillat	Kilmer
Brady (TX)	Estes (KS)	Kind
Brat	Estry (CT)	King (IA)
Bridenstine	Evans	Kinzinger
Brooks (AL)	Faso	Knight
Brooks (IN)	Ferguson	Krishnamoorthi
Brown (MD)	Fitzpatrick	Kuster (NH)
Brownley (CA)	Fleischmann	Kustoff (TN)
Buchanan	Flores	LaHood
Buck	Fortenberry	LaMalfa
Bucshon	Foster	Lamborn
Budd	Fox	Lance
Burgess	Frankel (FL)	Langevin
Bustos	Frelinghuysen	Larsen (WA)
Byrne	Fudge	Larson (CT)
Calvert	Gabbard	Latta
Carbajal	Gaetz	Lawrence
Cárdenas	Gallagher	Lawson (FL)
Carson (IN)	Gallego	Lee
Carter (GA)	Garamendi	Levin
Carter (TX)	Garrett	Lewis (GA)
Cartwright	Gianforte	Lewis (MN)
Castor (FL)	Gibbs	Lieu, Ted
Castro (TX)	Gohmert	LoBiondo
Chabot	Gonzalez (TX)	Loebach
Cheney	Goodlatte	Lofgren
Ciçilline	Gottheimer	Long
Clark (MA)	Gowdy	Loudermilk
Clarke (NY)	Granger	Love
Clay	Graves (GA)	Lowenthal
Cleaver	Graves (LA)	Lowe
Clyburn	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Coffman	Green, Al	Luetkemeyer
Cohen	Green, Gene	Lujan Grisham,
Cole	Griffith	M.
Collins (GA)	Grijalva	Luján, Ben Ray
Collins (NY)	Grothman	Lynch
Comer	Guthrie	MacArthur
Comstock	Hanabusa	Maloney,
Conaway	Handel	Carolyn B.
Connolly	Harper	Maloney, Sean
Cook	Harris	Marino
Cooper	Hartzler	Marshall
Correa	Hastings	Mast
Costa	Heck	Matsui
Costello (PA)	Hensarling	McCarthy
Courtney	Herrera Beutler	McCaul
Cramer	Hice, Jody B.	McClintock
Crawford	Higgins (LA)	McColum
Crist	Higgins (NY)	McEachin
Crowley	Hill	McGovern
Cuellar	Himes	McHenry
Culberson	Holding	McKinley

McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas
J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier

Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Amash Biggs Massie

NOT VOTING—41

Beatty
Black
Blackburn
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Capuano
Chu, Judy
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Duncan (SC)
Ellison
Eshoo
Farenthold
Gomez

Gosar
Gutiérrez
Jackson Lee
Jenkins (WV)
Jones
Katko
Kelly (IL)
King (NY)
Labrador
Lipinski
Marchant
Meeks
Messer
Mooney (WV)

Moore
Murphy (FL)
Pelosi
Pingree
Poe (TX)
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rush
Sires
Thompson (CA)
Tsongas
Vargas
Walz

□ 1852

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 LATE HONORABLE LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

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 late Honorable LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER.

KENNEDY-KING NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

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. 4851) to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 116]

YEAS—391

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguliar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole

Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Españillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego

Garamendi
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger
Knight

Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham,
M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan

Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas
J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano

Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—38

Black
Blackburn
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Capuano
Chu, Judy
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Duncan (SC)
Eshoo
Farenthold
Gomez
Gosar

Gutiérrez
Issa
Jenkins (WV)
Jones
Katko
Kelly (IL)
King (NY)
Labrador
Lipinski
Marchant
Messer
Mooney (WV)
Moore

Murphy (FL)
Pelosi
Pingree
Poe (TX)
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rush
Sires
Thompson (CA)
Tsongas
Vargas
Walz

□ 1902

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A Bill to establish the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4566, ALLEVIATING STRESS TEST BURDENS TO HELP INVESTORS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5247, TRICKETT WENDLER, FRANK MONGIELLO, JORDAN MCINN, AND MATTHEW BELLINA RIGHT TO TRY ACT OF 2018; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-613) on the resolution (H. Res. 787) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4566) to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide relief to nonbanks from certain stress test requirements under such Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5247) to authorize the use of eligible investigational drugs by eligible patients who have been diagnosed with a stage of a disease or condition in which there is reasonable likelihood that death will occur within a matter of months, or with another eligible illness, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 788

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR VICTIMS OF TRAGIC PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLLAPSE AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I am joined here today by members of the Florida delegation to honor the victims of the tragic pedestrian bridge collapse at Florida International University.

Last week, a pedestrian bridge that was designed to protect students and other campus personnel and visitors from the traffic on one of our busiest thoroughfares collapsed, taking the lives of six innocent people and leaving others gravely injured.

So many of us, particularly in south Florida, have a close and meaningful relationship with FIU, or Florida International University, and its students. This tragedy has hit our community exceedingly hard. We also know that, today, six grieving families are mourning in the wake of this horrific event.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say we are truly heartbroken after Thursday's horrendous bridge collapse. We are thinking of the victims, those injured, and are mourning with their families during this very difficult time.

This Florida delegation, Mr. Speaker, and this Congress, will leave no stone unturned to ensure something like this never happens again anywhere in our great country.

Alexa Duran;
Navaro Brown;
Brandon Brownfield;
Rolando Fraga-Hernandez;
Osvaldo Gonzalez; and,
Alberto Arias.

We will never, ever forget them. We will remember them and grieve the lives cut short by this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, may their legacy live on with all of us, with our community, and in the hearts of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully ask that the House observe a moment of silence in honor of these victims.

CONGRATULATING YOUNGSHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING IRISH BAND COMPETITION

(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 congratulate the Youngsville High School Marching Band for winning the 48th annual Limerick International Band Championship in Ireland.

The Youngsville Marching Eagles stole the show as they were crowned the overall winners in the band competition. The Warren County students braved blizzard-like conditions to bring home the top prize. Snow was piled high on umbrellas, hats; and even big brass instruments were coated in snowflakes. But the weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the musicians or the spectators. Spirits are also flying high for the proud parents, friends, and supporters in Youngsville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Youngsville Marching Eagles worked hard to fundraise to

make this international trip possible. For many, it was the first time they traveled outside the Commonwealth, let alone the country. The band also performed in Dublin at the St. Patrick's Festival Parade, where they were named "Best Small Band."

These Youngsville teens really dazzled the crowd, and I am so proud of their incredible international achievement. Congratulations to the band and Band Director Cindy Scheid.

REMEMBERING DR. STEPHEN HAWKING

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Stephen Hawking, who passed away last week at the age of 76.

Stephen Hawking was a brilliant student of the universe, a giant of the world stage, an inspiration to me personally and to us all. Through his discoveries about black holes and quantum mechanics, Professor Hawking challenged humankind to ponder the mysteries of the cosmos. He was curiosity personified, having once remarked: "My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

Yet Professor Hawking, who was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, at the age of 21, also personified the unconquerable human spirit. He took on the challenges of his disability with unparalleled tenacity and a trademark sense of humor, all the while reminding us "to look up at the stars and not down at your feet."

Mr. Speaker, in short, he was a force of nature. He made a difference.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the vote on H.R. 835. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL PHILIPPE ENIS

(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, it is with deep respect that I recognize the tragic loss of Staff Sergeant Carl Philippe Enis, pictured here, who was one of seven brave U.S. servicemembers killed in a helicopter crash last Thursday, March 15, 2018, in western Iraq.

Carl, a south Florida native who grew up in my congressional district in Pinecrest, was an Air Force pararescueman serving in a combat role in Iraq for the 308th Rescue Squadron from Patrick Air Force Base supporting Operation Inherent Resolve when his helicopter went down.

Sergeant Enis was a Reserve Citizen Airman combat rescue and recovery specialist who supported Air Force special operations. His job truly embodied his heart and spirit, where he consistently put his own life at risk to save others both in combat and humanitarian environments. He always tackled every challenge with a smile on his face, no matter the danger or difficulty.

Carl was also an active outdoorsman who embraced his passion for fishing, hiking, hunting, and scuba diving, and lived his life to the fullest. He was a graduate of Gulliver Prep, in my congressional district, and Florida State University.

Carl is survived by his wife, Angela; his mother, Colleen; and his brother, Edward. Their families, our community, and all Americans can be proud knowing that Sergeant Enis gave his last full measure performing his mission and serving the most noble pararescue creed: "These things we do, that others may live."

□ 1915

NEWARK COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Newark Community Solutions for its continued work on reducing crime and strengthening connections between courts and the community.

Newark Community Solutions works with young people who are at risk of being victims or perpetrators of gun violence. They provide job training, counseling, and peer mentorship. The organization also develops support networks for crime victims and provides mental health counseling for veterans and schoolchildren to avoid expulsion.

Mr. Speaker, Newark Community Solutions produces real results, and they are felt throughout Essex County. In cities throughout my district, we are seeing safer streets, reduced incarceration, and improved neighborhood perceptions of justice.

The program at Newark Community Solutions can be a model for cities throughout the country. Newark Community Solutions shows that, by investing in the community, we can build a foundation for sensible and thoughtful criminal justice reform.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLOOMINGTON CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Bloomington Jefferson High School cheerleaders for their national championship

victory. This season the team looked to replicate their historic success, having won five State titles and two national championships in just the past five seasons.

The team qualified for the national championship at the Universal Cheerleaders Association Ten Thousand Lakes Regional competition back in October, and in February, they made the trip down to the 2018 UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida.

At the national championship, they competed against 28 other teams from across the country. They placed first in the preliminary rounds and then advanced to the final round. In the final round, they were able to best seven other teams and emerged with their third national title in 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, the consistent hard work and skills of these student athletes is impressive, and it is a credit to their dedication, their perseverance, their coaches, and all of the families that offered them support.

Congratulations again to Bloomington Jefferson on their national championship.

Go Jaguars.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Houston men's basketball team on their remarkable performance in the 2018 NCAA Tournament.

The Cougars entered the tournament as the number six seed from the American Athletic Conference, led by the 2018 AAC Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson. This was the Cougars' first NCAA tournament appearance since 2010, and their spectacular win in the first round against San Diego State was the Cougars' first NCAA Tournament win since 1984. Their loss against Michigan in the second round was hard fought and truly a heartbreaker.

As an alumnus of the University of Houston and on behalf of the city and the fans, we are proud at what they accomplished this season. I wish the team the best of luck for next season.

I would also like to give special congratulations to seniors Devin Davis, Wes VanBeek, Nura Zanna, and Rob Gray for an exciting season.

Go Cougars.

HAPPY 110TH BIRTHDAY TO GOLDIE SMALL

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished constituent from my district named Goldie

Small from Binghamton, New York. Goldie currently resides at the Good Shepherd Fairview Home in Binghamton, where she will turn 110 years old on April 1.

Goldie was born in Paris, New York—on Paris Hill as we call it—on April 1, 1908, and lived there until 1940, when she moved to New Milford, Pennsylvania.

As a child, Goldie went to a one-room schoolhouse until she attended high school in Waterville, New York. In order to get to and from the schoolbus, she either had to hitch a ride, walk 1 mile to catch a train, or use a horse and carriage to travel all the way to Waterville.

After high school, Goldie went to school in Rochester, New York, to the famous Eastman School to become a dental hygienist. Shortly after, the Depression hit and very few people could afford the luxury of dental care, so she went back to school to become a secretary.

After getting married and moving to Pennsylvania, Goldie had two children, Glenn and Marion.

Goldie has an amazing memory, never forgetting any of the birthdays of her six grandchildren and, now, nine great-grandchildren.

To this day, she continues to play bridge and other card games as well as completing the daily crossword puzzle in the newspaper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to have everyone join me in wishing Goldie a very happy 110 years. She is an inspiration to all of us on a long, clean life.

FIRING OF ANDREW MCCABE

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, President Trump had Andrew McCabe, the Deputy Director of the FBI, fired.

His offense?

Well, he is about to be a witness in the Mueller investigation and had copious notes about his conversations with the President. What better way to nullify damning testimony than to fire the person about to give it, all while signaling to anyone else the consequences of crossing the President.

But it is worse than just that. The President fired Andrew McCabe in a way completely devoid of human decency: 2 days before his full retirement.

The message to McCabe and anyone else who would cross him was: I won't just go after you, but your family and your future, too. I will destroy you.

Like a thug in a mafia movie, Trump made his move. Fortunately, the Founders of this country made sure we had checks and balances in the system to avoid this dangerous style of governing.

I and others have offered Andrew McCabe, a 21-year law enforcement professional in the FBI, a job to ensure he will be able to get his hard-earned pension.

No one should fear harm to their family, their pension, their future by a petulant man-child or a ruthless demagogue, depending on the mood of the day.

I stand with you, Andrew McCabe, and so do the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BANKS of Indiana). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I want to honor three incredible women who have had an enormous impact on central Washington State: Martha Yallup, Violet Lumley Rau, and Sister Kathleen Ross, who founded what would become Heritage University in 1982. With a vision to create a community and inspire others to serve, they brought education to the underserved populations of the Yakima Valley.

Today, Heritage University has grown immensely and now offers more than 50 undergraduate and graduate majors. The high-quality education and inclusive environment has led to over 9,500 graduated students who will continue to grow their legacy.

Martha, Violet, and Sister Kathleen saw an opportunity to have an impact on the lives of their friends and neighbors, and it is safe to say they exceeded their goal.

Their perseverance, ambition, and service to the community are an inspiration for all of us in central Washington, and it is a privilege and honor to serve them during Women's History Month.

BENEFITS OF ONSITE CHILDCARE

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, study after study has shown that employers and employees find that onsite childcare provides the greatest value of any employer-provided childcare option. Despite this, only 11 percent of all private sector workers in the U.S. receive childcare assistance through their employers. Of that 11 percent, only 7 percent have access to childcare at or near their place of work.

As childcare costs dramatically increase each year relative to family income, the time has come for new approaches that provide affordability and flexibility for working families and increased productivity for businesses. Onsite childcare accomplishes this and has been repeatedly shown to reduce absenteeism and increase staff retention.

That is why I am introducing the Child Care At Responsible Employers Act this week: to incentivize employer investment in onsite childcare by providing a small preference in government contracting to those who do so.

With childcare costs rising, we can't afford not to act, and onsite childcare helps both businesses and families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOUSTON'S SUGAR LAND METHODIST HOSPITAL

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln used the term "four score and 7 years ago" at Gettysburg. If President Lincoln reappeared today, he might say: One score and zero years ago, a new Houston hospital, Houston Methodist, was brought forth in Sugar Land, Texas, a new hospital, conceived in medicine, and dedicated to the proposition that all Texans have the best care.

Seven thousand patients in 1998 became 225,000 in 2017. Over the 20-year score, Houston's Methodist Sugar Land Hospital scored numerous awards, like the best metro area hospital from Fortune magazine.

There is a very simple reason for this amazing success, I CARE values: I, integrity; C, compassion; A, accountability; R, respect; E, excellence.

As CEO Chris Siebenaler said in a recent interview in the Fort Bend Focus: "Houston Methodist Sugar Land is committed to cultivate a safe, spiritual, and healing environment for every single patient."

Congratulations on 20 amazing years, 20 more to come.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JENNIFER IRVINE

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Jennifer Irvine. She attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Jennifer Irvine devoted her life and career to defending people in family court and criminal court. She opened her own law firm in downtown San Diego, California, where she worked tirelessly to defend each of her clients.

In her free time, Jennifer loved snowboarding, hot yoga, cats, and sailing. She had even earned a black belt in tae kwon do. She hoped to one day learn indoor rock climbing and to later experience skydiving.

Jennifer is remembered by all those who knew her as loyal, fierce, and passionate. She had a genuine devotion for helping people and was always driven to be her best self.

I would like to extend my condolences to Jennifer Irvine's family and

friends. Please note that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THOMAS RUSSO

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Thomas Russo. Tom was born in New Orleans and grew up in Louisiana, where he received a degree in broadcast journalism from LSU.

I got to know Tom in his role as assignment manager at the WPMI television station in Mobile, Alabama. Tom was a consummate professional, always with a smile on his face and a contagious positivity about himself. In all of my experiences, Tom was a true joy to work with.

Tragically, Tom passed away, unexpectedly, on March 3 at the young age of 56.

To Tom's wife, Kristine, and his children, Ryan and Nick, please know that Tom helped make southwest Alabama and the world a better and happier place. His legacy will live on in each of you.

□ 1930

CALLING FOR JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, so many of us, when we go home, get the question of what is going on in Washington and why this behavior continues.

I think it is important for the American people to know that we have the responsibility of oversight. And I believe, as a senior member on the Judiciary Committee, that we need to address the question of the firing of Andrew McCabe. We understand there may be a report, the IG report. I don't challenge it, but it has not been rendered or made public. The precipitous and heinous, unfair firing, in the manner that it was done—I think that our Nation is better than that. I believe it is important for the Judiciary Committee to hold hearings.

And we should also hold hearings on the Cambridge situation. As a member of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee for Homeland Security, Judiciary should hold and find out why the private information of millions of Americans through Facebook has been utilized to skew the election of 2016. No, I am not complaining, Mr. Speaker, about the results. What I am saying: The American people are owed a fair and just election, and the responsible people are the Members of the United States Congress to determine how their private information has been skewed and used and

is still being used without their permission.

It is time for us to exercise our oversight, Mr. Speaker. Let's do it now.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS OF GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both the Grandview High School boys and girls basketball teams. These two teams from Grandview High School are now Colorado's 5A school basketball champions. The Grandview Wolves' boys team triumphed over George Washington High School from Denver by a score of 57 to 52. The girls team prevailed over Regis Jesuit High School by a score of 67 to 61.

The Grandview boys basketball team had a spectacular season, finishing the season with an impressive 24-4 record. And the culmination of its season was the first ever boys basketball State championship title. The Grandview girls basketball team also had a tremendous season, finishing with an equally impressive 23-3 record. And the culmination of its season was the second consecutive girls basketball State championship title.

The teams were led to their respective championship titles by their coaches: Josh Ulitzky for the girls team and Michael Rogers for the boys team. I also commend these two coaches, their coaching staffs, and their supporters at Grandview High School for all they have contributed to the success of the school's boys and girls basketball programs.

Again, congratulations to Grandview High School girls and boys basketball teams on this impressive victory in Colorado's 5A State championship.

MCCABE FIRING

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our law enforcement and intelligence community—most notably, the FBI—is sustaining an unprecedented, coordinated attack led by the President of the United States. No one is above the law in our country, including the President.

FBI Director Andrew McCabe, a 20-year veteran of the FBI, is the latest to fall to this concentrated effort to undermine Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the Trump campaign's entanglements with Russia during the 2016 Presidential election.

Incidentally, former FBI Director Mueller has served our Nation for 36 years: as a soldier in the U.S. Navy with a Purple Heart; as a U.S. attor-

ney; and also as FBI Director, including after 9/11 when he oversaw the transformation of the FBI from a domestic law enforcement agency into a global counterterrorism and counterintelligence agency. Wow.

This administration is making every effort to degrade our Federal law enforcement institutions and, even more insidiously, by a negative media campaign to erode public faith in these institutions. Let truth will out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE LOUISE SLAUGHTER

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to stand with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as those on our side, in recognition of a life well done; that is, the passing of our colleague LOUISE SLAUGHTER. To me, tonight, it is something we should take a moment to reflect upon and recognize: her life, her commitment to this body.

Having served with her on the Rules Committee, I can personally attest, being a fellow New Yorker, that we shared a commitment to our home areas; that we always brought the passion of our beliefs, both on the left and the right, into the room; but at the end of the day, LOUISE SLAUGHTER represented us well, in the sense of how she represented and carried herself in this Chamber as she represented her people, her folks back home in Rochester, New York.

And I am proud to call her and remember her this evening as a Member of this body and her service to all of us. She was a Southern lady at heart, had a good wit, and she will be missed by many Members, if not all Members, on both sides of the aisle.

HONORING JOCELYNE AND MONIQUE LAMOUREUX OF THE U.S. WOMEN'S OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Women's History Month and continue celebrating the historic Olympic Gold Medal won by the U.S. women's hockey team, I rise to recognize two remarkable sisters from Grand Forks.

Jocelyne and Monique Lamoureux grew up in one of North Dakota's premier hockey families. These sisters have played together since they were teenagers and were standouts at the University of North Dakota. The first set of twins to play women's ice hockey in the Olympics, they brought home silver medals in 2010 and 2014. In last

month's championship game against Canada, they helped make this win golden: Monique's goal tied the game, and Jocelyne flawlessly executed the game-winning shootout goal.

Since returning home, they have joined Team USA in appearances across the Nation, inspiring a new generation of women athletes. A cheering crowd filled the Engelstad Hockey Arena in Grand Forks, many of them young girls and women on area hockey teams who came to congratulate their hometown champions who brought the U.S. women's hockey team their first Olympic Gold Medal.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I salute Jocelyne and Monique. You have set a high bar for women athletes across the Nation, and North Dakota honors your excellence.

RECOGNIZING FARMERS ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, this National Agriculture Week, I rise to recognize the hardworking farmers across this great Nation who get up every day and, by the sweat of their brow, grow the food we eat. The district I represent in west Texas is home to 14 million acres of farmland, making it one of the largest agriculture production regions in the world. Our farmers and ranchers feed and clothe the American people and help fuel the American economy.

Agriculture contributes to 20-plus million jobs, and it is our country's number one export. But, more importantly, it provides a safe, affordable, and abundant supply of food for our citizens, which has tremendous national security implications. We can never put ourselves in a position where we depend on other countries for our food. That is not a vision for a safe, strong, and free America.

When we sit down with our families to eat dinner this week, let's remember to thank God for our food and for the farmers he uses to help make it. Mr. Speaker, these folks work hard and take enormous risks so this country can maintain its greatness so that America can continue to be the most powerful, the most prosperous, and the most generous country in the history of the world.

God bless our farmers. God bless America.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-103)

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 the Committee on Financial Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have signed an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017. The Executive Order prohibits, as of its effective date, all transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in, by a United States person or within the United States, any digital currency, digital coin, or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf of the Government of Venezuela on or after January 9, 2018.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping folks around the United States and throughout the Third District of Georgia.

In fact, over 400 major companies across our great Nation have announced bonuses, pay raises, and new investments in their businesses and communities that will offer benefits to over 4 million Americans. I am thrilled that a number of great Georgia companies are included in this; such as, Columbus, Georgia-based, Aflac and Total Systems Services; as well as companies like Home Depot, Carl Black, Yancey Bros., Cox Enterprises, SunTrust, and United Parcel Service, just to name a few. These are all major companies in my home State of Georgia that are making investments in their people and their industries so that they can better serve their customers, and it is paying big dividends.

It is always exciting to hear about these announcements from major employers around the State, but the benefits of tax reform are not just felt by employees at major corporations, they are being felt by the job creators here on Main Street and right here in Georgia's Third District. Two that I will highlight at some point tonight will be Shred-X in Griffin, Georgia, and Cus-

tom Truck and Body Works in Woodbury. Both of these businesses are expanding and hiring more workers, and this is a great story for the State of Georgia and the Third District. We are awfully proud of them.

The positive impacts of tax reform have been felt by millions more Americans just this month as the updated withholding tables took effect. As employers implemented these tables, Americans across the country have seen these tax cuts reflected in bigger paychecks. This means keeping more of your hard-earned money to spend as you see fit. I have long said that Americans know how to spend their hard-earned money far better than the bureaucrats here in Washington. I look forward to seeing how our economy continues to improve.

Mr. Speaker, our next speaker is my good friend PAUL MITCHELL. Representative MITCHELL has become a dear friend and does a wonderful job of representing Michigan's 10th District. I want to thank him for setting up these Special Orders to tell the truth about tax reform and how it is helping Americans.

In Mr. MITCHELL's district, people who are making the median household income will see a tax cut of just over \$1,500.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from West Point, Georgia, and I want to also thank the Georgia and Alabama delegations' Members who, as part of the Tax Truth Squad, have come here tonight to share examples of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on their districts.

The last major tax reform was conducted 31 years ago. I believe many people, many businesspeople and workers, had simply given up on the idea that we would actually achieve what we achieved at the end of last year. In less than three months since the tax reform bill passed, as my colleague said, more than 440 companies have given a pay raise, bonuses, increased 401(k) contributions, or, in the case of utility companies, lowered their rates dramatically. In Michigan, rates will be lowered this year by \$400 million.

This number of 440 doesn't even include small mom-and-pop businesses on Main Street. At least 4 million Americans are receiving special tax reform bonuses, announced already this year, in 3 months. The direct bonus announcements have already passed \$4 billion. Small-business owners are showing unparalleled confidence in the economy as the optimism index reached record high numbers in February according to the NFIB Small Business Economic Trend Survey. Let me say that again: record high numbers, all as a result of what we achieved at the end of the year.

This optimism in economic strength is reflected in data recently released. Last month, the United States economy created 313,000 new jobs.

□ 1945

More importantly, 800 million people reentered the labor force who weren't trying to go to work. The unemployment rate remained the same at 4.1 percent, what most people call full employment. Equally important, wage growth over last year increased 2.6 percent; 2.6 percent already in terms of wage growth.

These are good things for Americans, for wage earners; and, as my colleague said, even more importantly, a good thing because they keep money in the pockets of workers and families to make decisions on what to do with their hard-earned money rather than depend on those of us here, frankly, in Congress or, worse, bureaucrats, to spend it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members of Georgia and Alabama as part of the Tax Truth Squad to put their stories forward tonight.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, one of the most important and recognizable companies in the Third District of Georgia is Aflac.

Aflac was one of the first companies to announce benefits to its employees. Shortly after Christmas, Aflac announced that they would increase their investments by \$250 million in the U.S., increase the company's 401(k) match for employees, and make a one-time contribution of \$500 to each employee's account. This is a long-term investment in Aflac's employees and into the United States economy. Our new Tax Code helps companies like Aflac to reinvest in their workers and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, my next speaker is Mr. PALMER, who represents the Sixth District of Alabama. Households earning the district's median income would see a tax break of \$1,534.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for setting this up, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for leading it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the impact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having in Alabama's Sixth Congressional District.

Millions of Americans across the country are now reaping the benefits of tax reform in the form of higher paychecks, and my district is no exception. I would like to give just a few examples of how my constituents are using the additional money to benefit their families.

One woman from Mountain Brook noted that her employer was paying out bonuses of \$1,000 as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and that she will deposit that money in her health savings account.

Another woman from Trussville talked about how the savings would help with tuition payments for her two college-age daughters. The ability to help with tuition payments was a common theme among my constituents.

Another gentleman from Birmingham noted that his family used their larger paychecks to help pay for college and have placed additional money in savings.

A man from Hoover shared that he was able to make additional payments toward his mortgage principal, increase the amount he was contributing to his 401(k), and was able to take his wife out to dinner and a movie.

It seems the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts may be having an additional benefit for marriages in a way we hadn't considered.

Finally, another gentleman from my district noted, and I would like to quote him here: "We now have an additional \$250 a month thanks to the tax plan. We love the crumbs."

That was the same message I got from a lady in our church who received a \$1,000 bonus from her company.

These are just a few of the numerous examples of the individuals and families in my district that continue to benefit from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. But the benefits don't stop there.

Regions Bank, which is headquartered in Birmingham, recently announced that they would be making a range of investments as a result of the tax cuts, including raising the minimum hourly wage in their branches to \$15 per hour, and that is without a government mandate. They are also contributing \$40 million to the company's charitable foundation and increasing their capital expenditures budget by \$100 million in 2018.

It is not just the big companies that are doing this. Smaller businesses are getting in on the act as well.

One small business in my district, Wadsworth Oil, sent a note along with their employees' paycheck letting them know that, as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, they would be getting cumulatively \$22,000 in bonuses.

Despite fierce opposition from those who wanted to maintain the broken status quo, Republicans in both Houses of Congress were able to deliver a significant win for the American people.

Going forward, we must maintain this momentum and continue to enact policies that strengthen our economy, create jobs, and increase the pay and benefits for American workers.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as I said early on, we are seeing tremendous growth in businesses both large and small. Previously I highlighted a great American company, Aflac, but an example of a small company that is seeing the benefits of tax reform is a company called Shred-X in Griffin, Georgia.

Shred-X is a small business offering paper shredding and recycling services to approximately 3,000 clients throughout Atlanta and central Georgia, and they are using their tax savings to invest in their business. They are planning on buying a new truck and hiring a potential employee.

Now, for a company like Shred-X, that is a true small business that em-

loys ten people, the addition of one truck and another employee makes a big difference. Shred-X owner Cade Joiner told me: "This is just one practical example of how tax reform is helping us here on Main Street."

It is really exciting to see our small-business owners really beginning to see the benefits of tax reform and beginning to see the benefits with their employees as well.

Mr. Speaker, my next guest is Mr. Buddy Carter. Representative CARTER has been an outspoken advocate for the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He represents a district where the median household income in the First District of Georgia will see an average savings of \$1,220.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank him for his leadership in this area and for putting this together tonight. This is an important message that all Americans should hear and that all Americans will share in.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits already impacting the First Congressional District of Georgia since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law.

A few weeks ago, I traveled the district and visited with businesses, with students, and with senior citizens to discuss how tax reform is helping them.

Nine Line Apparel, a business in Savannah, told me that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act allows them to give more to their employees, a small difference helping their employees to take vacations, buy Christmas presents for their children, and make it easier to provide for their families.

Lee Container Company in Homerville, which I visited a couple of weeks ago, said the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will enable them to purchase more equipment and grow their business.

I also had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to visit with students at Savannah State University. I shared my excitement that, for upcoming graduates, job creation from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will generate high demand for employees, increasing wages and making the job search easier than it has been in years past. Needless to say, they were excited to hear this good news.

Mr. Speaker, the results from my trips around the district were encouraging, and I am proud we could pass tax reform benefiting all income levels, American businesses, and our whole economy.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will truly go down as some of the most significant tax reform this country has ever seen. It is certainly the most significant tax reform in the last 30 years.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will put money in people's pockets, will stimulate our economy, will create jobs. It is good for our economy and good for our country.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as we go through tonight and begin to highlight some of the benefits of tax reform, we have talked a lot about a large business such as Aflac, a small business such as Shred-X, but this is having an effect on individual families as well.

I have heard from people all over Georgia's Third District who are telling me that it is having an impact in their paychecks, and that is helping their families.

Robert from Thomaston wrote in to my office to say that he had checked his check, and he had more money in his retiree account statement on his military pension because of tax reform, and this is helping him meet his monthly financial goals.

Erin from LaGrange told me that she has \$132 more in each paycheck. She said, while it may not seem like a lot to some, it is her money and every little bit helps.

These are just two of the millions of Americans who are seeing larger paychecks because of comprehensive tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone is not sure if tax reform is helping them, I want to encourage them to check their check, see how much more money they are saving each and every month.

Mr. Speaker, my next guest is the distinguished gentleman from Georgia's 12th District, Mr. RICK ALLEN. Mr. ALLEN represents a very broad swath of the eastern part of our State. The median income family in his district will receive a tax savings of \$875 a year thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Augusta, Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman for doing this tonight and for giving me the opportunity just to give you some news from the other side of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the significant impact that comprehensive tax reform has had on Georgia's 12th District.

As a businessman, I bring a different perspective to the Halls of Congress. During my tenure in Congress, I have been focused on three goals: grow the economy, get folks back to work, and reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government.

Like me, President Trump is a businessman; and under his leadership, we are getting our economy back on track. Nothing can compare to the effect that tax reform is having on jumpstarting our economy and expanding small businesses and creating jobs.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to meet with several small businesses as I have traveled across Georgia 12 to discuss how tax reform is making real changes for them and their employees.

I would like to share the story of Georgia Tire Company, a 72-year-old business located in Vidalia, Georgia.

In 1946, two brothers, after World War II, decided to buy a small gas station.

One of their sons, Rusty, began working alongside his father and uncle during the summer of 1965, and then began working full time at the family business in 1972, with a third generation of workers not far behind. Now they are known as a reputable business selling tires across the district and providing automotive repairs in Toombs County.

The Moses family has built their business through hard work; treating customers fairly; a little bit of luck; and, most importantly, through their employees, who are treated like part of their family.

When I had the opportunity to speak with Rusty Moses about the success of his family business, he told me that his employees are hardworking, honest, law-abiding people, but high taxes and complex laws continued to stifle their income. Mr. Moses promised his employees that if the tax laws were changed, they would share in the business tax savings through performance bonuses and salary increases. Thanks to tax reform, this promise has become a reality.

Georgia Tire Company has seen an increase in take-home pay, and it plans to issue employee bonuses at the end of this fiscal year.

There are so many family businesses like Georgia Tire Company that are truly the lifeblood of our communities. Before tax reform, these businesses were struggling to make ends meet and unable to provide their employees with well-earned benefits.

Don't just take my word for it. There are more than 4 million Americans who have already seen the positive impacts of tax reform, just like at this tire company.

With Congress and the President working hand-in-hand, we have made great strides. I can't tell you how happy I am to see our local businesses thriving in the new American economy, growing this economy, and giving all Americans the opportunity to have a good job.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow colleagues and President Trump for their support of comprehensive tax reform for all Americans.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for those great words.

As I mentioned earlier, another great company in the Third District of Georgia is a company called Total System Services, as we refer to it, TSYS.

Right in Columbus, Georgia, TSYS is a major credit card processor and employs thousands of people in our area. Because of tax reform, they were able to give their employees a bonus, and, just as importantly, they have been able to invest in their business to grow at a more profitable rate and continue to return the benefits to the community.

I have heard a lot of folks talk about tax reform being just crumbs, but to middle class Americans in my district, if you talk about crumbs, it is not about tax reform.

Tax reform is making a difference in middle American lives every single day. It is helping families make their ends meet—they are going on the vacation that they have worked so hard for—or to invest in their home.

These tax cuts are making a difference. Companies like TSYS, that are returning these benefits to their employees and making investments in their business, are continuing to do their part to make this Nation the most competitive place in the world to do business.

Mr. Speaker, I now call on my colleague from Georgia, Representative LOUDERMILK.

Representative LOUDERMILK represents Georgia's 11th District. The median household income in his district will see an average savings of \$1,780.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

□ 2000

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I especially thank my good colleague and friend from West Point, Georgia, for managing this hour so that we can share, really, the excitement that we are seeing back home for what adding a little bit of money in the people's paycheck is doing.

Mr. Speaker, I have often contemplated what transformed America from an enthusiastic ragtag rabble that had this idea of freedom into the strongest economy, the freest Nation, and the strongest military in the entire world?

The reality of that is the freedom that this government and the rights that were given by God that we protect has given to the American people. When you think about the innovation that has come from America, innovation that has changed the face of the world, most of it came from here because of the freedom that we have.

Now, if you go right down the road here to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, you will see a testament to that freedom in that building where two bicycle mechanics from Ohio were able to accomplish to what, for centuries, scientists and engineers couldn't accomplish, because they had the freedom.

We have taught our children in this Nation to dream big. In America, you can accomplish anything that you want to dream. But in the past couple of decades, we have squelched the dreams of these kids because, as we have put out the fire that we tell them they can have in America, we are quenching that fire with wet blankets of bureaucracy and obstacles.

But I want to share with you a story from back home. It was a letter I received from a young man, a 14-year-old, thanking me for the tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which put more money in the back pocket of his parents.

You see, he had a dream. He dreamed of being a pilot. He wanted to be a

pilot. But I can tell you, as a pilot myself, that is a difficult thing to accomplish. Not only is the training difficult, but it can be very expensive.

But he wrote me this letter thanking me. Because of the bonus that his dad received from his company because of the corporate tax cut, and the money that they are going to save because of the individual tax cuts, his parents are using that money to ensure that he gets flight lessons at 14 years old. He is accomplishing a dream because we removed government out of the way.

And one thing, quite frankly, is we need airline pilots. Up here, we start looking at what government programs we can put in or incentives to get people to fly, when all we have got to do is get out of the way and let our children, once again, dream big. That is all that we are doing, is getting us out of way.

When you look at Georgia, the results have been astounding. Even Home Depot, which is headquartered in my district, is investing \$50 million to train 20,000 tradespeople to fill the gap.

With this closing, Mr. Speaker, let me bring up that the number of jobs that we have available in this Nation is about equivalent to the number of people we have unemployed. We need to continue to get out of the way.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia's 11th District. The gentleman is right, if we get the Federal Government out of the way, great things happen.

As I mentioned earlier, another small company that is now doing big things as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is Custom Truck & Body Works in Woodbury, Georgia. This small company creates specialty vehicles for first responders. They had been hoping to grow their business, but they felt hampered by a burdensome Tax Code. After tax reform passed, they were finally able to move on with a building expansion, able to hire new workers, and give their current employees additional benefits.

I got to see the impact on this business firsthand on a recent visit to their facility in Woodbury, Georgia. Everyone was excited about the company's growth, and it really brought home, for me, the difference the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was already making in the Third District of Georgia.

Next is my colleague from Alabama, Congressman MIKE ROGERS. Congressman ROGERS represents Alabama's Third District. We are neighbors along the Georgia-Alabama line, and the median family household in his district will see a tax cut of almost \$1,000.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Georgia for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having in east Alabama and across America.

After working under an outdated Tax Code for over 30 years, businesses and

families from the Third District of Alabama and the entire country are feeling some relief. From bigger paychecks to bonuses and raises, many companies in the U.S. have already distributed over \$4 billion in bonuses.

In my district, Russell Lands in Alexander City distributed \$500 bonuses to each of their 500 employees as a direct result of the tax overhaul.

Three companies in Columbus, Georgia, which is right across the State line from my district, have already rewarded their employees because of tax reform, including, as you have heard earlier, Aflac, Synovus Financial, and Total System Services. This is putting more money back in the pockets of some of my constituents right across the State line in Russell County.

Regions Bank and Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama; Cogent Building Group in Point Clear, Alabama; Overseas Hardwoods in Stockton, Alabama; and DTI and Xante in Mobile are other companies across our great State that have been giving bonuses to their employees.

I am proud of Ben Russell of Russell Lands and the other companies I mentioned leading the way on this important front.

Because of the tax reform, over 4 million workers have already received a bonus or a pay increase across our great country. These bigger paychecks and bonuses can help families save for their kids' school or help pay for a new household appliance. It helps with making a car payment or paying off student debt.

This extra money represents opportunity. At a time when every penny counts, I am proud to see tax reform is giving hardworking Americans more money to take home to their families.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for his remarks and for taking the opportunity to share some of the great things that are happening just across the State line to our neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that tax reform was so important to me, and one of the things that I campaigned so hard for is growing up in a community where we lost our manufacturing backbone, where we lost our job base.

We saw families just begin to lose everything. They began to lose their homes, their cars, their small family businesses. We saw a generation move away from our communities to look for better opportunities because the jobs simply weren't there.

I know that every single job is important. So every time that we are able to do something in this great Nation to create the environment, where this is the best place on the planet to do business, and we can grow jobs, it is good for our communities; it is good for our friends; it is good for our families; it is good for our neighbors. It makes our community stronger.

One of the things about tax reform that is so important to remember is

not simply about lowering the rates, but it is about helping American families, because now companies are now making decisions based on their employees and what is best for their bottom line, not arcane provisions that exist in the Tax Code.

So every time that I hear someone from the other side say, "All we did was give a tax break," I think it is being disingenuous. I think, quite candidly, it shows a lack of willingness to dig down into what this tax reform is really about; and that is changing how American companies operate so they can be very competitive on the world stage, so that they can make this place the greatest place in the world to do business and hire more of our friends and our family members, your neighbors, in the best-paying jobs on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to call on my colleague from Georgia's Seventh District, Congressman ROB WOODALL. Congressman WOODALL is on the Budget Committee, on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and on the Rules Committee. I thank Congressman WOODALL for his leadership on those committees. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity that he has spent with me as a freshman guiding me along the way. I know that the folks back home truly appreciate his efforts, because, as a result of tax reform, families making the median income in his district receive a \$1,866 increase in their paychecks as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia's Seventh District (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, you know that he may call himself a freshman, but Mr. FERGUSON—Dr. FERGUSON has made his weight felt around here since day one. He ran on a commonsense platform that said: Dadgummit, let's just go and get something done. Let's go and make a difference. Let's stop fussing about it. Let's start doing something about it.

He has developed a reputation as a doer, and I am proud to serve with him. I appreciate him putting together this opportunity tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about tax reform as if it is a line item somewhere. The truth is that it is a feeling. It is a collective sigh of relief that has gone on in every single congressional district represented here.

We have all gotten those calls. I got one just the other day, Mr. Speaker, from a father whose adult daughter had fallen on hard times and has a tough time making the bills work. As someone who had been strapped for the last, 6, 7, 8 years, he was trying to figure out how he was going to help his daughter make the bill balance when he wound up with \$1,000 bonus from one of our local employers. It came at exactly the right time to make a difference in his family's life.

It is that collective sigh of relief that better days are coming tomorrow than we had yesterday. I have heard it from the biggest companies in the district and I have heard it from the smallest companies in the district.

The Home Depot is a proud Georgia company. My friend, Mr. LOUDERMILK mentioned it is headquartered in his district. We have got about seven stores in my district and a distribution facility in our district. Mr. Speaker, \$1,000 bonuses from The Home Depot went not to their upper-level management employees, but to their rank-and-file hourly employees at the store. That is real money in somebody's pocket back home. Now, that's just the kind of company that Home Depot is.

We remember that during the economic crisis, when folks were cutting back on everything to try to make the books balance. They kept that program going on Saturday mornings, where you could come out with your kids, where you could build a birdhouse together, where you could build a train together, where you could come together as a family. Even when you didn't have enough dollars to go to a ball game, you could come to your local Home Depot and be present with your children. That is the kind of company they are.

Same thing with UPS. My friend from Georgia knows, UPS has a proud tradition. We won them over from Connecticut. Years ago, Oz Nelson made that decision. Folks in UPS brown, 1,700 employees in my district, are getting bonuses because UPS now has more money to go around.

Now, all the money didn't go into bonuses. Let's be clear, it didn't. UPS put \$5 billion in their pension fund.

Mr. Speaker, how many times have we talked about pension funds being underfunded in this country and wanting somebody to do something about it?

UPS got some extra dollars and they put those dollars in the pension fund for their employees.

They announced last month, Mr. Speaker, 14 additional 747 purchases. Now, Boeing is not headquartered in my district, but if you live in Washington State or you live in South Carolina, the news that 14 more planes are going to be purchased means something to those families, to those suppliers, to those subcontractors.

Four new 767s being purchased as a result of extra money that wasn't coming to the Federal Government that is, instead, being reinvested.

My friend from Georgia said it best: companies are now, for the first time in a long time, making decisions based on what is best for them, for their customers, for their employees, and for their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we can argue about what kind of public policy we should have, but can't we agree that one where we are prioritizing people and communities first is one that we can all be proud of?

I was pleased to support the bill. I am pleased to be down here with my friend from Georgia tonight talking about the impacts. I am grateful both to the Chair, Mr. Speaker, and to my friend from Georgia, for your leadership on this tax reform issue, for making it possible.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia's Seventh District for his remarks. Well said.

Mr. Speaker, as I close out tonight, I first want to thank all of my colleagues who joined us here tonight to share some of the amazing stories from their districts and their States about what is happening as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It is clear that this is having a real impact. The benefits are clearly more than just crumbs. They are meaningful to every single family.

I think one of the things that I see—and I am beginning to see more and more of—is not just simply that an employee is getting a bigger paycheck, which is great, but that enthusiasm that they have; because not only are they being rewarded for the job well done, but they are now seeing new opportunities because of growing businesses that they never had before.

It is exciting and it is wonderful to see our friends, our family, and our neighbors, the people who we care about, who we represent, being affected in a positive way. As our economy grows and as we do things here to put more and more back into our communities in the forms of people's freedoms for them to make livings and to raise their children and to do with their family what they feel like is best, I see a bright future for this Nation.

Just looking right now, 4 million people just recently receiving bonuses on top of their tax cuts, it has been a huge impact. It is making a difference. This is a promise that was made and it is a promise that has been kept.

□ 2015

And because of our growing economy, we will have a chance to keep our other promises: our promise to defend this Nation against foreign invaders, our promise to make sure that our important safety nets are there in the future, making sure that we can keep every promise made to our seniors in terms of Social Security and Medicare, making sure that we can keep our promises to the men and women of the armed services who were willing to die for our freedoms.

We can keep our promises to our children to make this Nation a wonderful and great place for them because we are beginning to have the resources that we need to tackle one of the most important challenges that we will ever face, and that is the \$21 trillion in debt that we have burdened future generations with. A growing economy gives us the resources to do just that, and I cannot wait to see what this future looks like because I know that it is

strong, I know that it is bright, and I know that it is right because we will be able to keep our promises.

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

2018: THE YEAR OF THE BLACK WOMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. 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 New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. I thank the Congressional Black Caucus chairman, CEDRIC RICHMOND, for his leadership in this effort.

For the next 60 minutes, we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus and the millions of constituents whom we represent. Tonight's Special Order hour topic is Women's History Month.

Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, we salute phenomenal women who refused to sit on the sidelines of history. After the passage of the 19th Amendment, millions of women have continued to march like the women who came before them.

For generations, women, particularly Black women, have been on the front lines fighting for key rights for America's women, including the right to equal pay, the right to equal access to educational opportunities, and the right to equal access to opportunities in the workplace.

In that spirit, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus in reclaiming 2018 as the Year of the Black Woman. 2018, the Year of the Black Woman—I like the sound of that. Black women are a force to reckon with, and we shall not be moved.

New York, my hometown, has a long-standing and illustrious legacy of leading the way to advance women's rights, from Seneca Falls to the United States Congress, and even on the road to the White House. It was where Madam C.J. Walker and Billie Holiday laid down their roots. It was the home of the late great Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman to serve in this distinguished House and whose congressional district I represent today.

"I am not a candidate of Black Amer-

ica, although I am Black and proud. I am not a candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. . . . I am the candidate of the people of America." These are the words she spoke.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Shirley Chisholm's election to the House of Representatives as the reformer from Brooklyn and the 46th anniversary of her historic bid for the Presidency. In doing so, Shirley Chisholm blazed a pathway for millions of girls and women to dream unthinkable dreams.

Shirley Chisholm's labor and contribution to Brooklyn, Congress, and the Nation continues to bear fruit today. She paved the way for many of the women, myself included, to run for elected office at all levels.

Shirley Chisholm opposed war, racism, sexism, and inequality. She stood up to Republicans and demanded more from her own party. She won; she lost; she never backed down.

Forty-six years ago, the unbossed and unbought Shirley Chisholm announced her candidacy for President of the United States, making her the first woman in history to run for the highest office in the land. I can because she did.

Congresswoman Chisholm used the authority of her experience to create nutrition assistance programs, expand healthcare services for parents and children, increase the minimum wage, support the veterans of our Armed Forces, and provide opportunities for women in college, graduate school, and collegiate and professional sports with the enactment of title IX.

But that is not all. Shirley Chisholm pushed this country forward. I can recall growing up in Brooklyn and just being so proud as a young girl growing up knowing that there was a woman who looked like me who came from my neighborhood, who came from my origins, sitting here in the House of Representatives. She was somewhat of a rock star in Brooklyn.

Her intellect, her ability, her savviness was something that she exuded in every environment that she found herself. She was pretty stylish as well. But it was, indeed, her strategic thinking and her ability to be a voice for the voiceless that really propelled Shirley Chisholm into the hearts and minds of all Americans.

Shirley Chisholm pushed this country forward, and for this and other reasons, she deserves a permanent place among other figures of United States history right here in the Capitol.

In January, I introduced H.R. 4856, what I have named the Shirley Chisholm Statue Bill. The bill would do just that, honor Shirley Chisholm's legacy with a permanent statue among those statues in our hollowed Halls. H.R. 4856 directs the United States Joint Committee on the Library, which is responsible for oversight of the operations of the Library of Congress and the management of Statuary Hall Collection, to obtain a statue of Chisholm

for permanent placement in the United States Capitol. I am very pleased to say that over 70 Members of the United States House of Representatives are cosponsors.

My sister, colleague, and friend, Senator KAMALA HARRIS of California, in late February, introduced the companion bill. Among Senate cosponsors are the CBC members Senator CORY BOOKER of New Jersey, in addition to Senators Warren and Sanders, and my Senators, CHUCK SCHUMER and KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, as well.

Senator HARRIS and I agree, Shirley Chisholm created a path for Black women Members of Congress who have served after her. "Her legacy encourages us to keep up the fight for our most voiceless and vulnerable," Senator HARRIS stated.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa and Sojourner, giant figures in American history and the only two African-American women cemented permanently here in the Capitol, are lonely. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join us in this effort. Let's pass the Shirley Chisholm Statue Bill right away.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), one of the staunch supporters of women's rights here on Capitol Hill and co-chair of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CLARKE for all of her strong leadership as a Member of Congress and also as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls as she advocates for awareness, fairness, and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today during Women's History Month to acknowledge the impact and legacy of Black women in America. Black women have blazed trails, set standards, and broken barriers in every job sector, elected position, and civil rights movement in America.

I am especially proud of the strong leadership of African-American women during the suffrage movement. The suffrage movement was the demand and struggle for the right for all women to vote and run for office and was a very important part of the overall women's rights movement.

Faced with constant opposition and threats of violence, women of various social classes, economic classes, and race traveled across the country to make their proclamation loud and clear. They have a voice, and they deserved a vote.

As women fought and marched for their right to be treated as first-class citizens, in addition to their gender, African-American women were also faced with the barriers of racism in America. While women were united by gender, they remained divided by race. In the march for respect and dignity, Black women were asked to march at the back of the suffrage parade.

Despite being asked to go to the back of the parade, 22 founders of the amazing Delta Sigma Theta sorority

marched. This sorority was the only African-American women's organization to participate in the parade. I am proud to say I am a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Another member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Ida B. Wells-Barnette, marched for the right to vote. A journalist, antilynching crusader, and outspoken suffragist founded the first African-American women's suffrage organization, the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago. The members of the Ida B. Wells organization joined her in marching in the women's suffrage march parade in Washington in 1913.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one of the examples of how Black women have faced, head-on, the double barrier of being Black and being a woman in America. As a Black woman of Congress and as vice chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I stand on the shoulders of women who refused to accept the status of being a second-class citizen, a second-class woman, or a second-class race.

I stand on the shoulders of Shirley Chisholm, as my colleague has outlined this amazing woman being the first African-American woman of Congress.

I stand on the shoulders of women like Erma Henderson. She was a Detroit civil rights activist who became the first Black woman to be elected to the Detroit City Council. She was the first woman I was able to look up to as a little Black girl growing up in the city of Detroit. She inspired me to believe that one day I, too, could have a seat at the table.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Black women is far from over. I am proud of how far we have come, and I am encouraged by the hope of what is next. I am encouraged by my colleagues—White, Black, men, and women—who continue to fight for fairness, justice, and equality for all women and for Black women in this country.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for her extraordinary comments this evening, really highlighting the triumphs and the challenges of both race and gender when we talk about Black women.

This is Women's History Month. We want to bring a unique lens to the conversation of Women's History Month because oftentimes, indeed, Black women tend to be the hidden figures.

□ 2030

Having said that, it is now my honor to yield to the gentlewoman from California, the honorable BARBARA LEE, one of the outstanding mentors and Black women here in Congress who has done extraordinary work, whether it is in leading the conscience of this Congress around the Iraq war or many other causes that we have seen her leadership as a north star to really making this Nation the best that it can be. It is my honor to yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman for those kind remarks, and also let me thank Congresswoman LAWRENCE for her tremendous leadership and all she has done not only through this Special Order, but through all of their work with the Congressional Black Women and Girls Caucus. They have really lifted up Black women and shown the world that Black women lead, and I am very proud of both of them for doing that. You know, hidden figures, we are not hidden anymore thanks to them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a minute and begin by saying what a huge void it is on the floor of this House tonight without the presence of our beloved warrior woman Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER. She was a brilliant and beautiful woman: the first woman to chair the Rules Committee and the only microbiologist in the House. My heart is broken tonight.

Louise sat right there. She encouraged us; she supported our agenda, whatever we were doing; and she was a true mentor. I know, on behalf of all of us, we are praying for her family and her constituents tonight, and it feels different without Louise being on this floor.

I am glad to be with my sisters this evening and Congressional Black Caucus member Mr. EVANS because this is a moment that we have to kind of pull together in her absence.

Each year, in March, we pause to honor the countless contributions that women have made to this Nation. As a Black woman, I am uniquely aware that our stories tend, really, to be lost in the mainstream celebration of Women's History Month. That is why I am glad to be here with my CBC colleagues to declare that, yes, 2018, this is the year of the Black woman.

For generations, Black women have blazed trails throughout this Nation: Madam C.J. Walker, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ruby Bridges, Audre Lorde, Mae Jemison, and Michelle Obama. This list of historical Black girl magic, it could go on. It could go on and on because, in every chapter of American history, Black women have stood up, spoken out, and pushed this Nation closer to freedom and justice and equality for all.

Last year, we saw the clearest indication of the influence that Black women have on our society through the emergence of the Me Too movement against sexual assault and misconduct.

Many don't know this, but the Me Too movement was started by a Black woman 12 years ago to support victims and survivors of sexual violence. Tarana Burke's work and the phrase "me too" have revolutionized the way we approach sexual assault in this country. But as has been the case throughout American history, Tarana's story, the story of Black women, is often lost in mainstream coverage of this movement, and what a shame it is.

But, once again, 2018, this is the year of Black women, and thank you for giving us a chance to highlight some of these hidden figures.

Courageous, bold, and brilliant women like Tarana have been fighting for the soul of this country for generations. And despite being locked out of opportunity and left behind in consideration, like our beloved, brilliant, the late Dr. Maya Angelou said so wisely: And still we rise.

We rise in the spirit of Black women like Ida B. Wells, who happens to have been born on July 16, which is my birthday—different year, though, but July 16. She was a revolutionary journalist and crusader for justice who spoke truth to power and exposed the atrocity of lynchings across the country.

We rise with the hope and determination of Black women like my mentor—and Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE has so boldly taken up her agenda, and she is standing on her shoulders—Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first major party African-American candidate and the first woman candidate who ran for the United States Presidency.

Miss C., as we called her, broke many barriers while tirelessly advocating for the most vulnerable in our Nation and our world. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CLARKE for laying her record out.

I have to say, I got to know her very well. I was honored to have coordinated her northern California campaign, and I saw the many obstacles that she overcame as a Black woman in politics.

I happen to have been honored to have been a Shirley Chisholm delegate in Miami at the convention, and I have to just say, you talk about mentors, Congresswoman Chisholm encouraged me, and she was a catalyst for change, and she was unbought and unbossed.

I think Black women today are unbought and unbossed, and we are the catalyst for change, and so I can't help but honor Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm tonight and thank her for her contributions to our country, but also for being so special in my life, because I shared many, many, many moments with her.

So thank you again, and we want to recognize her on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, we also rise with the courage of fearless Black women like Anita Hill, who held her head high and spoke out against sexual harassment despite being humiliated by a committee of White male Senators.

I was reminded by Andrea Mitchell last week, on her show, that Congresswoman SLAUGHTER was one of those House Members who marched over there to that committee and held that hearing up for a couple of days.

When we rise, when we stand up together. When we refuse to be silenced, Black women and women can change history.

Because Anita Hill refused to let the abuse she was subjected to dissuade her

from working to create a world where other young female professionals wouldn't be made to accept sexual harassment as simply part of the job, a movement was begun because of that.

The movement led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 that allowed employees to sue for damages related to sex discrimination and harassment, and Anita reminded us that it was a Black woman who filed the first sexual harassment lawsuit in the mid-eighties.

Now, this movement led to more women being elected to office, tripling the number of women Senators from two to six; and because of that movement, there are now 22 women Senators and 104 Members of the House.

Make no mistake, we still have a long way to go to achieve full and lasting equality for Black women in this country. Black women still make only 60 cents for every dollar that White females make. We still have to fight for access to healthcare, and structural sexism continues to stand in the way of Black women being able to fully achieve the American Dream. But still we rise.

I am confident that, no matter what obstacles we face, as long as we stand up, speak out, and fight for what is right, we will win—because we are winning.

And let me just say as a Black woman who has been fighting for social justice and equality my entire life, the fight is worth it.

So I am proud to stand here with you tonight in memory of my mother, who was a fearless warrior woman, who taught me never to back down if I thought what I said or what I did was right.

Had Black women, like Ida B. Wells, my mother, Mildred Parish Massey, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, and Anita Hill given up, I might not be standing here today. I am the 17th African-American woman in Congress, the 74th African American, and the 163rd woman to serve in the House of Representatives in the United States' history. I know I would not be here if it weren't for these phenomenal African-American warrior women.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for giving us a chance tonight to talk about our great heroes, and I hope we continue to educate the public and to lift up Black women so the entire country will really understand and value and know where we have been so they know where we are going, and that is to achieve liberty and justice for everyone in this country.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her eloquent presentation this evening.

It is now my honor and privilege to bring to the floor the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania, the great city of Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection, the honorable DWIGHT EVANS of the Second Congressional District.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from the great city of Brooklyn, particularly the great part of New York in terms of Brooklyn. She always reminds me that there is not a better place than Brooklyn. And if you haven't been there, I encourage you to go to Brooklyn.

What can I say about my colleague Congresswoman LAWRENCE from Michigan? As they both lead this effort, I compliment both of them.

I want to thank my colleagues for holding this Special Order hour to talk about our queens, our rocks, and our Black women. I say that because I was raised by a Black woman who was a single head of household, better known as my mom, Jean Evans. She was someone then and now who always was very consistent in her message in terms of stay strong and always look forward.

As we paint a picture of the Black community in 2018, it is clear that we have a lot to lose, because too many of our neighborhoods, unfortunately, are still plagued by rampant poverty, dysfunction, and crime. They are very serious issues.

But as I seek to tie together last week's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order with tonight's theme, it is important to remember that, when the Kerner Commission report was issued, and even today, Black women had to deal with racism and, add to that, sexism. I am comforted by the fact that the excellence of Black women continues to outshine the gloom and doom that some of these problems bring. In fact, the fastest growing category of entrepreneurs are Black women.

Fortunately, I don't have to look too far because of Philadelphia, home of some of the most dynamic women and Black women in America. There is a woman there who is very good, and I have known her an awful long time, City Councilwoman Janine Blackwell, six terms in the council, born and raised in Philadelphia. She is a seasoned advocate for social change and has a 30-year reputation for serving community members and the poor and underprivileged in the city of Philadelphia, making her a leader in our city, Councilwoman Janine Blackwell.

Della Clark, president of The Enterprise Center, has played an integral role in the creative, technical, and professional progress of minority business development over the course of her life.

Estelle Richman, former Secretary of Public Welfare and Chief Operating Officer of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Richman oversaw agency efforts that resulted in an increased percentage of foster children finding permanent homes and a drop in the waiting list for mental retardation services.

Julia Coker Graham is the president and the CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, where she oversees all of the organization's departments and operational duties.

Prior to being named to the position, she served as the senior vice president of the convention sales and management staff, 25 people. She leads that organization, and she represents the face of Philadelphia.

The late C. Delores Tucker, who was the first African American to serve in the cabinet of a governor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

And last but not least is Sarah Lomax-Reese, president and general manager of WURD, better known as Wurd in the African-American community, a Black-owned radio station.

□ 2045

All of these women I have mentioned have, in one way or another, affected me personally and have played a very key role in my life. So I want to join with my colleagues and talk about these beautiful women—our queens, our rocks, our great women. I thank both of my colleagues for allowing me to have this opportunity to join this discussion.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for really bringing to the fore all of these extraordinary Black women in Philadelphia. It is unfortunate that our history, when it comes to gender parity, does not extol the virtues of everyone who is really laboring in the vineyard, oftentimes trailblazers and making things happen for communities, municipalities, and States across this Nation. Again, we are illuminating hidden figures this evening, and I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for doing such a tremendous job.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who is just across the river from the district that I represent in New York.

The gentleman has been an extraordinary advocate for communities of color in the State of New Jersey. He has done a tremendous job in work on the Committee on Homeland Security. I know he has been an advocate for promoting and putting forth Black women in leadership positions. He was responsible for electing the very first Black woman to be Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey. The Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr., represents of the 10th District of New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Representative CLARKE and Representative LAWRENCE for hosting tonight's Special Order hour. These are two dynamic colleagues of mine. Ms. CLARKE, as she stated, is right across the river from me and has really been a mentor to me since my arrival here in Congress. There is never anything that I have ever asked her to do that she hasn't done. I just want to acknowledge the great support that she has been for me since I have arrived at this body. She is a true leader from across the river.

Also, Mrs. LAWRENCE, who is from the great State of Michigan, has joined

us in her second term here in Congress. She has demonstrated her leadership day in and day out as well.

Mr. Speaker, of course, every year is the year of the Black woman for me. Just as Black women like the late great Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan paved the way for other Black women to run for office, the work that these gentlewomen do has inspired a new generation of Black women to change the course of our Nation. For that, we are all grateful.

Throughout American history, Black women have been undervalued and undercompensated. Nationally, Black women who work in full-time jobs make only 64 cents for every dollar a White man makes. In New Jersey, Black women only make 58 cents for every dollar a White man makes. Black women both in New Jersey and nationally make persistently less than White women, despite the fact that Black women have the highest labor force participation rate in the United States among women.

Regardless of their educational level, Black women are less likely than other workers to be employed in higher paying careers. They are more likely than other groups to be employed in service-industry jobs with low pay, no benefits, and outside the scope of the labor laws of this country.

Black women are key to building long-term success in our communities, yet they are disproportionately incarcerated. They are more likely to face employment discrimination and housing discrimination. They are more likely to be disciplined at school, and they are still undervalued and underrepresented in our society.

What should we be doing in Congress and in our communities?

First, we should be strengthening Black women's political participation. We need more Black women in office at all levels of government. Each of us should mentor young Black women who want to serve. We should uplift their voices, give them the microphone, and build infrastructure that gets them into office.

Secondly, we must protect the right to vote for Black women and all people of color. Over the past 5 years, the Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act. Legislators in States like Texas and South Carolina have passed voter ID laws that disproportionately restrict the right to vote for people of color, and Russian social media accounts have targeted the Black community to sow division and discord in our elections.

As Members of Congress, we have the power to restore the Voting Rights Act, protect the right to vote, and ensure our elections are secure from foreign interference.

Third, we need to support increased employment and higher earnings for Black women. That includes raising the Federal minimum wage to make it a liveable wage. That means strengthening collective bargaining.

Mr. Speaker, there are many examples of women in New Jersey who have made great accomplishments. Throughout 2018, the Year of the Black Woman, it is vitally important that we elevate Black women's voices and their experiences. Here are just a few Black women from my district who are making a difference.

Ibtihaj Muhammad, a Black woman from Maplewood, New Jersey, became the first African Olympian to wear a hijab during her event. She was also a model for the first hijab-wearing Barbie doll. Ibtihaj Muhammad is a trailblazer. She fenced in this year's past Summer Olympics.

Sheila Oliver, as Ms. CLARKE intimated, a Newark native, just became the first African-American Lieutenant Governor in New Jersey's history. She had already broken the glass ceiling by becoming the first African-American woman to serve as assembly speaker in New Jersey, and only the second African-American woman in the country to lead a State legislature. The first, of course, was our colleague from California, KAREN BASS. Sheila Oliver and KAREN BASS are trailblazers.

Mattie Holloway from Hillside, New Jersey, has spent nearly 40 years helping young women in her community. For the past three decades, she has led Hope, Inc., a community service organization that helps pregnant teens and young mothers stay on track during and after their pregnancy. Mattie Holloway is a trailblazer.

In Bayonne, New Jersey, there is a young woman named Jae Wilson. She is 9 years old. Jae was at the mall one day when she noticed a homeless man wasn't wearing socks. Jae saw a need and stepped up to fill it. This young woman now spends her spare time collecting socks and shoes to distribute to people in need. Jae Wilson is a trailblazer.

There are countless Black women whose contributions to our collective freedom have gotten us to this point today. Too often, they have been sidelined and, as I stated, undervalued and disrespected. Let's do a better job to celebrate, uplift, and empower our sisters this year and every year.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank the gentleman from New Jersey for highlighting all of the ways in which Black women have excelled beyond expectation, despite all the challenges and the obstacles that they have faced.

We continue to see Black women rise, and I want to thank the gentleman for his observations, for his experience, and his interactions as part of this Special Order hour. We know that, again, these are hidden figures, but today I say hidden no more. They are in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I thank the gentleman for adding such richness to the RECORD this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE will be sharing with us her insights

during this Special Order hour as we highlight the accomplishments and we speak to the concerns in the Year of the Black Woman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and tenacity, and that of her co-anchor, the Honorable BRENDA LAWRENCE. They are so correct. This is the year of Black Woman Rising.

I can't help but celebrate the quote from the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, whom I had the privilege of introducing more than once as a younger woman. One will never forget that experience and never forget the experience of just being around the Honorable Shirley Chisholm and the Honorable Barbara Jordan. They both came from similar stock on opposite sides of the Nation, but they were strong, stern, committed, and ready to serve; and serve, I like to think, without foolishness.

So I love the quote of Congresswoman Chisholm that said: If there is no chair for you at the table, then bring a folding chair.

I am paraphrasing.

What a celebration. Let me be very clear, it can go for Black women today in the 21st century.

I do want to acknowledge and to thank all women in this Women's History Month for their leadership and service. I want to particularly take note of our lost, late colleague, the Honorable LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and say that if there was ever a mighty woman of great leadership, tenacity, and strength, it was our dear friend, LOUISE SLAUGHTER. We honor her now and as well in the months to come.

As we talk about women of color, and in this instance, Black women, let me tell my colleagues that was about 400 or 500 of my sorors on Saturday. I must make mention of Marsha Penn, our president, and we were talking about the famous number 98.

Let me make sure I note all of the sorors in different sororities. For those of you who are not familiar with the sorority, that is a particular unique and special part of Black women's lives. I know there are other sororities, but we take it very seriously. You can be many colors. I happen to be pink and green, but there are many colors. I call them all my sorors. They are my sisters.

But we were talking about the power, and I use the number 98. I used that same number when I spoke with Stacey Abrams in Georgia just a few weeks ago. She may, in fact, be the first African-American woman nominee for Governor. She is running for that position in Georgia. She may be one of the great leaders coming forward.

But the 98 number is, as my colleagues know, 98 percent of African-American women cast their vote that catapulted Senator DOUG JONES into the United States Senate. They are change makers and tree shakers. That is what I want to say about Black Woman Rising. They are, in fact, those tree shakers.

Might I say and pay tribute to Ivalita Jackson, my mother; Valerie Bennett; Sarah Jackson; Sybil Gooden; Olive Jackson, my grandmother; Vannie Bennett, my grandmother; Mrs. Simms, my great-grandmother; Audrey Reed, my aunt; Vickie Bennett, my aunt; along with Valerie Bennett, my aunt. All of these women surrounded me and gave me the kind of tenacity and strength that I can be proud of.

□ 2100

I also want to acknowledge women like Dr. Alexa Canady, the first African-American woman neurosurgeon; Oprah Winfrey, a Mississippi native who has turned into a multi-millionaire and upwards of a billionaire; and the story of Sojourner Truth, who was left off of the suffragette statue; but women like myself gathered together. Senator Clinton carried the legislation, but C. Delores Tucker was the inspiration. She did not rest until Sojourner Truth found her place in the United States Congress.

There was Rosa Parks, who now sits in Statuary Hall in tribute to many members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I certainly thank our chairman, Mr. RICHMOND, for creating these opportunities for us to have this kind of experience.

Let me now get to the crux of what we need to do to be fair to Black women.

First of all, we need to quash, extinguish the stereotypes of welfare queens, incarcerated women, women with children and no spouses, and really talk about the mountains that Black women have climbed to raise children and to create heroes across the specter of leadership, from science to medicine, to education and, yes, to sports.

Let's make sure that we never have a President that says "sons of a B" to malign the many mothers, many of them African American, who are the mothers of sports persons who, only because of their upbringing, had a sensitivity to criminal justice reform.

Let us always characterize the mothers of the movement for what they are: not individuals who are against law enforcement or order, but mothers who have lost their children in an unfair way.

We need to work toward how things should change in criminal justice reform and improve police-community relations so we don't have mothers who have lost their children, such as Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin, and Jordan Davis. Some of these were not directly police issues, but they were sons who lost their lives, African-American young men. Also, Sandra Bland. Her mother is a dear friend of mine.

They lost their lives in ways that should not have been. There are also the same mothers of those law enforcement officials who have lost their lives. They mourn. What about bringing them together? Many of the moth-

ers of young African Americans are obviously people of color, but we have lost many in the law enforcement in the same way.

My point is that the pain of mothers, the pain of African-American mothers, should be treated with dignity. The idea of a mother being on assistance to provide for her children and living in public housing should carry no label. There should not be a definition of supplemental food stamps as a handout, as much as it is a hand-up.

No one should be trying to save money in the United States Congress by providing boxes of food versus a nutrition system that food stamps allow, which is to allow someone to go and buy what their family needs or buy the formula or what their child with allergies needs.

Let's, first of all, establish dignity. Then, of course, if young women who happen to be African American happen to be incarcerated, let's make sure that we are looking to end mandatory minimums so that for these young women who are caught up in a conspiracy where the law wraps everyone up because of some elements of a spouse or a significant other or a boyfriend, and they get caught up in the criminal justice system, we can respond to them as mothers and recognize that they should be having an opportunity to not be entrapped with mandatory minimums so that they are never able to return to their children.

What about women who are pregnant and incarcerated, many of them Latino and African-American women?

We should be able to have a situation where those women are not separated from those children.

I heard Mr. PAYNE mention the 64 cents per dollar that many African-American women make in those kinds of hourly wage jobs. Therefore, we must have an increase in the minimum wage, but, more importantly, an increase in wages for women working in all capacities so that the stagnant wages that have not been impacted positively by the \$2 trillion-dollar tax cut, we must ensure that.

We must ensure the ability of all persons to vote without obstruction and without the dastardly voter ID laws that have been put in place specifically to stymie the vote of people of color: Latinos and African Americans. I would hope that the courts would find them unconstitutional.

Motherhood must be promoted, as I indicated, for those incarcerated, but also for those who are not. Also, the support of healthcare, which is what the Affordable Care Act was all about. It was to equalize and to give a protective system for our working mothers or our mothers who could not afford insurance in another way. It is unfortunate, though we have tried—the Republican Congress has attempted to unravel a very strong healthcare system.

There are women in the United States military. First, I salute them all, but I also salute those African-

American women who have served in the military and have become generals.

I do want to take note of an organization that I have a deep affection for, and that is NASA. I am going to make it very clear that I want NASA to be on notice that I am still going to focus on the precipitous removal of an African-American, well-qualified astronaut without any explanation. The only explanation is: We did this wrong, and we really need to fix it.

But it needs to be explained why this person is not put back on the astronaut list and what excuse you had to remove her, other than the fact she was an African-American woman. In this month and this time we are honoring women, if you have a reason, you need to come forward to discern or explain why an African-American woman with the credentials, who is an M.D., who has been in training for a large number of years, was precipitously removed with no explanation.

These are the kinds of challenges that we face. So, I guess my message is: Let us give dignity to these women who are characteristically different.

Sojourner Truth represents a powerful example of that. She was a tall, dark, regal woman. The story goes that, when she was at the suffragette meeting in the Midwest, she either raised her hand or attempted to be recognized, and the person in the front said: Yes, sir, what do you want, the gentleman in the back?

She began this long statement that said: Ain't I a woman? I have born 13 children and seen most all sold into slavery. Although I may be strong looking and manly looking, you may not have recognized that I am a woman that has born children and had them snatched away from me.

So I think the underlying premise of what we need to do for girls is to stop having the bias of young boys and girls who are African American being expelled or suspended from school in larger percentages than others. We need to make sure that the schools in our communities that happen to be Latino and African-American neighborhoods are equal to other schools.

We need to invest in education. We need to invest in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. We need to invest in technology and coding. We need to invest in giving our young people opportunity.

I want to conclude my remarks by saying that this is an amazing array of outstanding women. I cannot recall all of their names, but I hope that, as I call their names, you understand my singular thing of dignity. Dignity doesn't write legislation, but it causes us to write legislation and policies that give women of color—in this instance, African-American women—as we honor them in Women's History Month, dignity and whatever the tools there are that give them dignity: better access to jobs, better access to housing, better respect for the work they do. We had the dismissal of an astronaut without

any explanation and no explanation that they can find.

Tracey Norman is a model. Oprah Winfrey. Shirley Chisholm. Leontyne Price. Maya Angelou. We know them for their work in civil rights.

Aretha Franklin, a historic, wonderful artist in her own right. Hattie McDaniel. Marian Anderson. Ella Fitzgerald. Althea Gibson. Dorothy Dandridge. Chemist Marie Daly. Sarah Goode, an inventor. We know the wonderful movie that talked about NASA women.

Della Reece. Ms. Muhammad, an athlete. Ms. Butler, an author. Mae Jemison, my friend, a doctor and astronaut. Tyra Banks. Whoopi Goldberg. Loretta Lynch. Patricia Roberts Harris. Many of us are familiar with her work as a secretary in our United States. Mary Jane Patterson, an educator. Alice Coachman. There are so many.

I conclude by simply saying that what we want is dignity, respect, and the ability to serve and to be Americans, as we should.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for bringing to the floor so many of the issues that Black women have been in the lead on or have been fighting for, such as social justice and criminal justice reform, which is the hallmark of the leadership of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. We are grateful to her for expressing today all of these obstacles that we must overcome and that we are focused on here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to close with some words of wisdom from Black women who absolutely have inspired me.

"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it," Lena Horn.

"I did what my conscience told me to do, and you can't fail if you do that," Anita Hill.

"Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts," Nikki Giovanni.

"Don't feel entitled to anything you didn't sweat and struggle for." That is the legendary Marian Wright Edelman.

And I close on an amazing woman we have talked so much about:

"Service is the rent that you pay for room on this Earth," Shirley Chisholm.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be a woman in America and to be blessed by God with this beautiful, Black skin and to be a Black woman in America.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for sharing those quotes with us this evening.

It is so important, in terms of inspiration and motivation, that we are able to pull from the work that is being done by Black women and those who have preceded us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment, because I would be remiss if I did

not take this opportunity to honor another distinguished woman from New York, the dearly departed Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER from New York's 25th District.

Words cannot adequately express the sense of sadness that I and many in my delegation feel to have received word of the passing of Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER, the dean of the New York delegation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER dedicated her life's work to the people of western New York and, indeed, all Americans across our great Nation. She embodied a spirit of strength, wisdom, grace, and beauty, inside and out.

She represented the very best of the American spirit, our values, and our ideals. She was a trailblazer. She was the first woman to serve as chair and ranking member of the powerful House Rules Committee. She commanded the respect and admiration of her colleagues.

Having had the honor of serving with her has enriched my passion for service and my commitment to fight for the most vulnerable amongst us. She is, indeed, a woman on whose shoulders I stand. The United States Congress has lost an esteemed leader, the New York delegation has lost a beloved dean, and I have lost a cherished friend and mentor.

My thoughts and my prayers are with her three daughters, Megan, Amy, and Emily; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In this time of their bereavement, we extend our deepest condolences.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we stand today in honor and in awe of the many accomplishments of black women in America. Despite seemingly insurmountable odds, black women have led iconic movements that have come to define the standard of equality and fairness throughout our society.

Every black woman stands on the shoulders of those who have paved the way for the continued freedom we enjoy, drawing their inspiration from the strength of our ancestors and our peers. The accomplishments of black women are part of a storied legacy of achievement made all the more meaningful by the challenges that we've had to overcome. As black women, the heavy burden of both systemic racism and sexism are not new realities, just circumstances that we have long worked to dismantle through civil rights movements, equal pay rallies, and organized civic engagement.

Black women and girls possess a unique understanding of the trials and adversities unique to our own experiences. Black women have always made do with less than their fair share, earning only 63 cents for every dollar a white man makes for the same work. More than 80 percent of black mothers are the breadwinners in their households, tasked with raising our future generations with just scarcely enough to pay for essentials while earning a fraction of what other segments of the population earn.

Black women are also sorely underrepresented in one of the fastest growing and highest paying career fields in America—engineering. Black women make up less than 1 percent of American engineers. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are fields that black women are being excluded from through cultural exclusion, lack of role models, and pay inequities. STEM fields offer incredible opportunities for the African American community, and we must do more to ensure that we encourage more women of color to pursue these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, America needs black women to fulfill the roles as chemists, engineers, physicists, and engineers. Black women have and continue to engineer solutions to many of the problems we face in the 21st Century. The coming age presents unique technological challenges that must be met with unique perspectives capable of grand problem solving. Supporting funding for STEM after school programs, workshops, and boot camps is an investment in the future faces of computer science, engineering, and the continued leadership of the black woman. Historically, when the Black woman succeeds, our nation succeeds. This year, let us do more for black women in America so that they can continue to do more for our country.

□ 2115

FBI INVESTIGATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, with so much going on these days in the way of investigations, we still have Robert Mueller, special counsel—of course, he was supposed to look into potential illegal collusion between President Trump and Russia, and it has morphed into basically whatever he wants to pursue.

It is kind of like the investigation that James Comey as the Deputy Attorney General recommended that the then-Attorney General John Ashcroft should recuse himself, which he followed that advice, and then Mr. Comey was able to appoint his very dear friend and his child's godfather, Patrick Fitzgerald, to be the special attorney.

Special attorney, special counsel, and Mr. Comey apparently knew at the time the investigation began that the person who leaked Valerie Plame's identity as CIA agent was named Richard Armitage, somebody they did not want to go after even though it was supposed to have been a crime. But they weren't interested in the crime. They were interested in nailing a person or persons.

And it really appears that is not only what Patrick Fitzgerald did. He wanted somebody's hide, and apparently it was Dick Cheney's. He might have settled for Karl Rove. Apparently, the offer was made more than once. It was reported that Fitzgerald was offering Scooter Libby.

If you can just give me anything that will convict Vice President Cheney,

then we will make sure you don't have anything to worry about.

But Scooter Libby was not going to lie to get himself out from under the gun, and as was reported, a witness against him, Judy Miller, later believed, when she found some notes, whoops, Libby had not lied as she apparently thought. Apparently, he was innocent, just as he had contended and, apparently, would have walked away without any problems, without the full force of the Federal Government going after him if he had just given him anything—that is Comey's child's godfather—given him anything that would have allowed him to convict Vice President Cheney.

It appears Mueller's investigation now has ceased looking for a crime involving Trump and Russia and is focused on just finding something—kind of like the effort that Comey's buddy—if it is Comey's buddy, since we are told that Comey and Mueller are basically joined at the hip, then it must have been Mueller's friend, too. But they wanted Vice President Cheney, and when Scooter Libby wouldn't lie and do that, well, they convicted him of lying when, apparently, he did not lie. He was innocent.

You can go back and find these type of things in Robert Mueller's wake, whether it was as the assistant U.S. attorney in charge of criminal investigations in Boston when they were found later to have had people who worked for Mueller who were in bed with Whitey Bulger, the mob leader, and Mueller kept insisting that these four people who were framed by FBI agents should remain in prison and not be paroled. Two of them died in prison. There was ultimately a settlement, but Mueller couldn't be bothered with a settlement because of the actions of the people who worked for him.

Just like he went after Dr. Hatfill, claiming that he was the anthrax killer, and some say that was the highest profile case this FBI Director had handled. Others would say it was the prosecution and conviction of Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator, which we later found out was a frame-up. The FBI is reported to have hidden evidence that completely exonerated him and manufactured evidence. After that came to light, his conviction, all of the case was dropped, as it should have been, well before it was ever even pursued. But they got the intended result.

The trial, a week or so before his election, he was convicted and, therefore, lost the election. Kind of like what Mueller, as FBI Director, had his FBI do to Curt Weldon whom I saw stand at this podium numerous times and talk about the FBI had some information before 9/11 that showed that they could have stopped it, something like that. But he just kept beating up on the FBI.

I didn't have any idea whether what Curt Weldon was talking about was true or not, but I do know that just a few weeks before his reelection, after

he had been easily reelected a number of times and after he was shown to have a decent lead over a very good Democratic opponent, 3 weeks before the election, the FBI stormed his daughter's office, and Mueller's FBI had leaked the information, apparently, because the place was covered up with reporters of all kinds so that they could document the raid on Curt Weldon's daughter's office.

Shortly thereafter, protesters with signs showed up at Curt's office, claiming that he had been caught red-handed, and the implications were clear from the FBI that Curt Weldon was guilty of something, and that brought about his defeat by about 2 percent.

As I understand it, the year after that raid on the Weldons, the FBI contacted Curt Weldon's daughter and said: You need to come pick up all this stuff up.

There was never a grand jury that we know of. There was no indictment. There was no real investigation. Mueller's FBI got tired of Curt Weldon making allegations from this podium I am standing at now, and they silenced him as a Representative.

There is much more, but we find out, and there is an article in the American Thinker by Daniel John Sobieski, and it talks about Uranium One. It says: "Back in July, I called for a criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton's collusion with Russia to turn over control of 20 percent of our uranium supplies to Russian interests in return for some \$145 million in donation to the Clinton Foundation. Now it turns out that there was one, an FBI investigation dating back to 2009, with current Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller up to their eyeballs in covering up evidence of Hillary's collusion, bordering on treason, with a Vladimir Putin's Russia."

"Before the Obama administration approved a controversial deal in 2010 giving Moscow control of a large swath of American uranium, the FBI had gathered substantial evidence that Russian nuclear industry officials were engaged in bribery, kickbacks, extortion, and money laundering designed to grow Vladimir Putin's," says a report by the Hill.

John Solomon, Alison Spann of the Hill, said this:

"Federal agents used a confidential U.S. witness working inside the Russian nuclear industry to gather extensive financial records, make secret recordings, and intercept emails as early as 2009 that showed Moscow had compromised an American uranium trucking firm with bribes and kickbacks in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, FBI and court documents show."

So from today's report, we find out that the investigation was supervised by then-U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein, who is now President Trump's Deputy Attorney General, and then-Assistant FBI Director Andrew McCabe, who is

now the Deputy FBI Director under President Trump.

Robert Mueller was head of the FBI from 2001 through September 2013, until James Comey took over as FBI Director in 2013. They were both involved in this Russian scam being that this case started in 2009 and ended in 2015.

Let me insert parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, I don't know who recommended the U.S. attorney investigating Russian collusion with Hillary Clinton and with the trucking firm, with others here in the United States, but whoever recommended Rod Rosenstein to President Trump as Deputy Attorney General should be fired, whoever that was. They are not there to help President Trump.

Further down, the article says: "Tuesday, on Fox Business Network, 'Lou Dobbs Tonight,' Breitbart editor at large and the author of 'Clinton Cash,' Peter Schweizer said there needs to be a Federal investigation into the Russian uranium deal then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's State Department approved after the Clinton Foundation receiving \$145 million from the shareholders of Uranium One. . . ."

So it is rather interesting. The article goes on to point out that about the investigation into Hillary Clinton, and it points—it quotes from Schweizer, saying: "A lot of people don't realize it now, in parts of the Midwest American soil is owned by Vladimir Putin's government because this deal went through."

He goes on and makes some interesting observations.

At the conclusion, he says: "Actually, we no longer need an investigation of Hillary Clinton and Uranium One. This FBI investigation in conjunction to what we already knew is prima facie evidence of criminal corruption and intentionally putting of American national security at risk for personal financial gain."

Then this article from Lee Smith, March 13, titled, "Robert Mueller's Beltway Cover-Up." This points out that if the deep state here—and it does cross party lines. They wanted somebody to effectively cover up all of the leaks, each one of which is a crime punishable by time in prison. If the deep state here in Washington wanted somebody who could protect all of these criminals who are working in intelligence, or FBI, that regularly leak information to hurt people who threaten their power here in Washington, then they could not have a better person as special counsel than Robert Mueller, as overseen by Rod Rosenstein.

It points out that "Mueller took his job not at the behest of the man who by all accounts he is likely to professionally and personally disdain, Donald Trump, but of the blue-chip Beltway elite of which he is a charter member. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed him nearly a year ago

to lead an investigation without parameters. That's because Mueller's job is to obscure the abuses of the U.S. surveillance apparatus that occurred under the Obama administration.

"The fact that someone at the level of former FBI Director was called in to sweep up the mess left by bad actors in the Bureau and Central Intelligence Agency and other parts of the intelligence bureaucracy suggests that the problems are even worse than previously thought. And that means the constituency from Mueller's political intervention is enormous."

Mueller is said to believe that the Eric Prince meeting, the reference back in January of 2017 with the Russian banker—that would be well after the election, obviously—was to set up a back channel with the Kremlin.

□ 2130

But that makes no sense. According to the foundational text of the collusion narrative, the dossier allegedly written by former British spy Christopher Steele, the Kremlin had cultivated Trump himself for years.

So what is the purpose of a back channel when, supposedly, Vladimir Putin already had a key to the front door of Mar-a-Lago?

Further, the collusion thesis holds that the Trump circle teamed with high-level Russian officials for the purpose of winning the 2016 election.

How does a meeting that Erik Prince had a week before Trump's inauguration advance the crooked election victory plot?

It doesn't. It contradicts it. Erik Prince may well be involved with questionable practices that would make people's blood run cold—and he talks some about Erik Prince—but the idea that whenever anyone who supported Trump, or even voted for him, met with a Russian national, the dish on the menu was treason is the stuff of Cold War "B" movies. But it is also evidence of something more than prosecutorial overreach.

The fact that Mueller has zeroed in on Prince points to a key motive behind his ongoing investigation. And he talks about Prince was thrown into the middle of Russiagate after an April 3, 2017, Washington Post story reported his meeting with the Russian banker.

But how did anyone know about the meeting?

After the story came out, Prince said he was shown specific evidence by sources from the intelligence community that the information was swept up in the collection of electronic communications and his identity was unmasked. The U.S. official or officials who gave his name to the The Washington Post broke the law when they leaked classified information.

Then on further it says Mueller presumably knows whether Prince's name was indeed unmasked and then leaked to the press, and that the leak was a crime. Mueller certainly knows that most of the case he has regarding Rus-

sian interference in the 2016 election was built by abuses of the foreign intelligence surveillance apparatus and other related crimes that are punishable with jail time.

The identity of Trump's short-term National Security Advisor, Michael Flynn, was swept up and leaked to the press in the same way as Prince's. It was leaked to the same newspaper, The Washington Post. As I explained last week, the identity of Attorney General Jeff Sessions was also unmasked from an intelligence intercept and leaked to The Washington Post. The fact that the FBI had secured a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act warrant on Carter Page was also leaked to The Washington Post. The warrant on Carter Page was secured on the basis of findings in the Christopher Steele dossier, an unverified piece of opposition research paid for by the Clinton campaign and Democratic National Committee.

As Director of the FBI during the post-9/11 period, when foreign intelligence surveillance and its abuses made regular, front-page headlines, Mueller knows exactly how the system can be abused and what the penalties are. He also recognizes that Russiagate is evidence of how it was abused and who abused it, including some of the same people he worked with during his 12-year tenure as FBI Director.

The purpose of the Mueller inquiry is, therefore, not to investigate the most ludicrously seeming charges in the Christopher Steele dossier, but to protect the institution of the FBI, former colleagues, as well as the National Security Surveillance System. Therefore, the inquiry has to cover up the sinful origins of the collusion narrative itself, which was borne in repeated abuses of power and subsequent crimes committed by U.S. officials in the intelligence bureaucracy and the Obama administration.

So, Mr. Speaker, regardless of what anybody thinks of President Donald Trump—and I know there are some Republicans who are unhappy that he was elected President and want him gone at all costs. And I know that most of the Democrats I know, it just grieves them to no end that he was elected; they want him gone at all costs. But at some point Members of Congress in the House and Senate have got to wake up to the fact that we have crimes being committed in the FBI and in our intelligence apparatus. There are people who are being paid with government checks who are out to destroy people who disagree with their power grabs and their crimes.

This article points out Mueller's investigation has got to drag on as long as necessary to prevent any of the people who have committed the crimes of leaking and other crimes—leaking, lying, perjury, obstructing justice, trying to create an insurance policy to take out a sitting President of the United States. It is time we wake up.

When elected officials in this city have to fear for their political lives by

people who they have given power in the FBI, DOJ, CIA, NSA, then the system is broken. It is out of control. And it is how you lose a democratic republic like we have, or like we used to have. It is time to get it under control.

Mueller is not the answer. He is the problem. He is the poster child for the problem that he has created during his entire tenure. And if he had any decency, he would have never accepted this special prosecution on anything involving Russia because he had been involved in that investigation and because he remained silent or perhaps spoke up to keep it hush-hush.

But he and Rosenstein both, they should have stopped the sale of 20 percent of our uranium to a national enemy. Apparently the Obama administration was so intent on that reset because they felt like, you know, George W. Bush just overreacted; all Putin did was invade Georgia, one country invading another smaller, weaker country. They felt like Bush overreacted and said: You shouldn't be doing this; put some sanctions in place.

So they wanted to show: We are just fine with you invading adjoining countries. Maybe even those that don't adjoin. But, sure, at least adjoining countries.

Whether they knew it or not, they gave the green light to Putin to invade Crimea, to invade Ukraine. And they gave the green light—they had to know this, because it was part of what they did—to the sale of 20 percent of our uranium to a country that most recently had its dictatorial leader bragging that he had missiles that he could put those nukes on that the United States couldn't stop. And those nukes can be tipped—at least 20 percent of them—with what Hillary Clinton, Mueller, Rosenstein had to be complicit in giving them, in letting them have.

This is serious stuff. But until the leakers and the abusers of our intelligence system are brought to justice, then nobody who believes in representative government is safe. We end up like China, like Russia, where you are scared to death of the people behind the scenes, behind the government, or even the dictatorial leader because you know they made you and they can destroy you.

And when the free press is not free, they are complicit in the assisting of the committing of crimes by gladly accepting the leaks, publishing them to complete the crime, we are in big trouble.

So I would say, if Mueller had any decency, he would just resign. And he doesn't even have to explain how wrong it was for him to accept the appointment. I had hoped that the damage he did to the FBI would have come to an end when his 10 years were up. But, oh, no. President Obama was so thrilled with the things he was doing, he extended his term 2 years and pushed it through Congress.

People wouldn't listen to me when I said: Oh, no, this is not a guy you want

for 2 more years. He has done enough damage.

And any Republican who says, "Oh, he will be fair," is either desperately wanting President Trump gone or is intentionally ignoring the facts of Mueller's background from the days as the assistant U.S. attorney in charge of crime in Boston, up through the present.

There are a lot of innocent people who lie in his wake. Some of them got multimillion-dollar settlements for the damage Mueller did to them, but most didn't even get an apology. Mueller couldn't be bothered with how many millions were paid out in Boston because of what he oversaw. He couldn't be bothered with the \$5.8 million that was paid to Hatfill because the FBI, under Mueller, and under his direction, apparently—from what the article said, he took direct oversight over the Hatfill investigation, assuring, when there was no evidence that he committed any wrong, that he was still the one.

It is time that Mueller's investigation come to an end. I think Lee Smith had it right. I think the article by Daniel John Sobieski had things right. We have already had an investigation of Russian collusion, and it was done by U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Robert Mueller, and they shut her down, shut up the information so the Clinton Foundation could be the beneficiary. And goodness' sake, they were big-time beneficiaries.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the need to be with his wife of 51 years, who is undergoing surgery, and to care for her during the initial stages of her recovery.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 20.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 15, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1177. To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to release on behalf of the United States the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 788, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 10 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4288. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Expiration Date Required for Serial and Subserials and Determination of Expiration Date of Product [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0028] (RIN: 0579-AD06) received March 15, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4289. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Campanula spp. Plants for Planting in Approved Growing Media From Denmark Into the United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2016-0051] (RIN: 0579-AE31) received March 15, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4290. A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food Agriculture, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) Certification Process (RIN: 0524-AA39) received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4291. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation, titled the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4292. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2017 Merger Decisions Report, pursuant to Sec. 18(c)(9) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4293. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2017-OPE-0112] (RIN: 1840-AD28) received February 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4294. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trinexapac-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0365; FRL-9973-20] received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4295. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Method 301: Field Validation of Pollutant Measurement Methods from Various Waste Media [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0069; FRL-9975-62-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT17) received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4296. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) [EPA-R07-OAR-2017-0517; FRL-9975-68-Region 7] received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4297. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-R07-OAR-2017-0208; FRL-9975-69-Region 7] received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4298. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; City of Philadelphia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0509; FRL-9975-38-Region 3] received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4299. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; City of Philadelphia; Control of Emissions from Existing Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator Units [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0453; FRL-9975-33-Region 3] received March 14, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4300. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report covering the period from November 9, 2017, to January 8, 2018 on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4301. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's reporting on designations of entities of particular concern, pursuant to Sec. 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4302. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on the

Millennium Challenge Corporation's FY 2017 obligations and expenditures for assistance provided to each eligible country, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7712; Public Law 108-199, Sec. 613(a); (118 Stat. 221); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4303. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Rocky Mountain National Park; Bicycling [NPS-ROMO-24625; PPMROMO6A PPMRSNR1Z.Y00000] (RIN: 1024-AE31) received February 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5131. A bill to improve the effectiveness of Federal efforts to identify and address homeland security risks to surface transportation, secure against vehicle-based attacks, and conduct a feasibility assessment of introducing new security technologies and measures, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-602). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5099. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a fusion center technical assistance program (Rept. 115-603). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5089. A bill to improve threat information sharing, integrated operations, and law enforcement training for transportation security, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-604). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4176. A bill to strengthen air cargo security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-605). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5079. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-606). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5074. A bill to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-607). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4467. A bill to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-608). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4227. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-609).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5094. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to improve suspicious activity reporting to prevent acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-610). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5081. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Transportation Security Administration the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-611). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4851. A bill to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-612). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 787. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4566) to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide relief to nonbanks from certain stress test requirements under such Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5247) to authorize the use of eligible investigational drugs by eligible patients who have been diagnosed with a stage of a disease or condition in which there is reasonable likelihood that death will occur within a matter of months, or with another eligible illness, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 115-613). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5323. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to establish an exemption from the credit valuation adjustment calculation for uncleared derivatives transactions with end-users so that United States companies are not disadvantaged, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FERGUSON:

H.R. 5324. A bill to improve school safety and mental health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 5325. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to reauthorize regional economic and infrastructure development programs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 5326. A bill to amend titles 14 and 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to Coast Guard and shipping authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 5327. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish a

grant program to create comprehensive opioid recovery centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5328. A bill to authorize the return of surplus property, including Federal land, to the government of Guam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BARTON, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5329. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and enhance the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5330. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions on persons who are officials of the Government of Iran or persons acting on behalf of that Government who are responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of the United States or United States legal permanent resident aliens; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5331. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for additional disclosure requirements with respect to content from registered foreign agents; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself and Mrs. HANDEL):

H.R. 5332. A bill to improve school safety; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 5333. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 5334. A bill to repeal the funding authorization sunset and the total funding cap for the Essex National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 5335. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TONKO:

H. Res. 788. A resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota):

H. Res. 789. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2018 as "Second Chance Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H. Res. 790. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2193), a bill to grant States authority to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws on remote transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

169. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to H.P. 1279 Joint Resolution, memorializing the President of the United States and the United States Congress to exclude the State of Maine from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

170. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 222, to express support for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and oppose any reduction in its boundaries; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

171. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a resolution memorializing the United States Department of the Interior to limit the proposed expansion of the National Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and to protect the waters off the coasts of the Commonwealth and New England; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5323.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Subsection 3: to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the Several States, and with Indian Tribes

By Mr. FERGUSON:

H.R. 5324.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers, and all other power vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 5325.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 5326.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 5327.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5328.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2; Article I, Section 8, Clause 17; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 5329.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5330.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5331.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5332.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5333.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . " to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 5334.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5335.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution confers on Congress the authority to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

This legislation makes technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 34, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements. Making revisions to the United States Code is a necessary role of Congress with respect to executing the powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 103: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 299: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 504: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 548: Mr. REED.
H.R. 686: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 741: Mr. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 846: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 881: Mr. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 942: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1017: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1054: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1206: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1267: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 1279: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1375: Mr. AMODEL.
H.R. 1444: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 1530: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1556: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1596: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1606: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut.
H.R. 1661: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1817: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1820: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 1828: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1861: Mr. WOMACK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BARTON, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. NUNES, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. HILL, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1884: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1904: Mr. AMODEL.
H.R. 1928: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1953: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 2055: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 2147: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 2242: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.
H.R. 2276: Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 2439: Ms. NORTON and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2556: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2583: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 2584: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2599: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 2851: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 2856: Mrs. HANDEL.
H.R. 3207: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3301: Mr. BUCK, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3330: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3349: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 3520: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3545: Mr. BANKS of Indiana and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3577: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3605: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3635: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3642: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 3654: Mr. VELA, Mr. VARGAS, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3666: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 3692: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3847: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3883: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 3962: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3988: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 3999: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 4024: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4052: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 4067: Mr. ROYCE of California.
H.R. 4099: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 4143: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4215: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 4227: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4229: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 4241: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4265: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WOODALL, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4267: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 4392: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 4471: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. ESTY of Connecticut.
H.R. 4548: Ms. MENG and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4575: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4649: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4659: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4673: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4677: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4706: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 4775: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4800: Mr. COSTA and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 4846: Mr. WALZ and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4851: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4886: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4915: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COOK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4922: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 4949: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 5004: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 5012: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida and Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 5041: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 5065: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 5097: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 5102: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5124: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 5139: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 5153: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 5161: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 5164: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 5180: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 5199: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 5210: Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. HURD.
H.R. 5218: Ms. NORTON and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 5247: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 5264: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 5272: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 5275: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 5283: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5292: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5315: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 5321: Mr. NORMAN.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. KHANNA.
H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 69: Mr. BARR.
H. Res. 282: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H. Res. 318: Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 370: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H. Res. 403: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H. Res. 570: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H. Res. 763: Mr. COFFMAN.
H. Res. 768: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 772: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H. Res. 775: Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 777: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. MEEKS.
H. Res. 781: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 786: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. KAPTUR.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. WALDEN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 5247 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative WATERS (CA) or a designee to H.R. 4566, the Alleviating Stress Test Burden to Help Investors Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

89. The SPEAKER presented a petition of city Council of Akron, OH, relative to Resolution No. 64-2018, calling on the Ohio General Assembly to enact a ban on the sale of assault-style weapons, ammunition magazines in excess of ten rounds, and modifications that simulate automated fire such as bump stocks and trigger cranks; and declaring an emergency; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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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.

Most high God, You are the great King of the Earth. Nations must submit to Your sovereignty, for You hold the hearts of national and global leaders in Your hands.

May our lawmakers remember that You can show them a way out of any difficulty, empowering them to not give up. Remind them that the tests they face are similar to what other generations have experienced and that You will enable them to prevail as You have done in the past.

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness, mercy, and love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ALLOW STATES AND VICTIMS TO FIGHT ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 339, H.R. 1865, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this is the start of another busy week in the Senate. We have a lot to accomplish for the American people.

This week, we will take up an omnibus that builds on the bipartisan funding agreement we reached back in February. It will provide our Armed Forces with the stable funding they need to meet emerging challenges.

Among other important matters, it will also strengthen our fight against the scourge of opioid addiction—an issue the President has already declared a public health emergency and is continuing to address today up in New Hampshire.

We have several concrete opportunities to make America safer and more secure. First, we will vote on the confirmation of Kevin McAleenan, the President's nominee for Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Mr. McAleenan is a 16-year veteran of the CBP. He served under administrations of both parties. His nomination carries the unflinching support of a bipartisan group of leaders and was thoroughly vetted in committee. Ensuring our national security means steady control over what and who comes across our borders. I would urge everyone to join me in voting to confirm him later today.

Later this week, the Senate will turn to another important matter relating

to America's safety and security. We will take up legislation to combat the evil of sex trafficking. Keeping children safe from exploitation has been a key focus for several of us going back some years. In 1984, I advocated the passage of the Missing Children's Assistance Act. In the 1990s, I was proud to introduce measures that mandated centralized reporting for missing children's cases and created a national database and screening system to identify abusers. In 2003, I joined a number of colleagues as founding members of the Senate Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. As recently as 2015, the Senate passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This week, it is time to build on those achievements and take another step.

It is time to confront the reality that trafficking has largely moved from the street corner to the smartphone. From 2010 to 2015, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children saw reports of suspected child sex trafficking increase more than eightfold. Last year alone, more than 8,500 cases were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Part of the problem is a 1996 communications law that is being misused to protect websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. The legislation before the Senate will reform that law and ensure these institutions can be held accountable for facilitating these heinous crimes. Senator PORTMAN has worked long and hard on this subject. He has helped assemble a broad, bipartisan coalition.

I would urge everyone to join me in voting to advance this legislation later this afternoon.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, now, on one final matter, the good news about tax reform keeps piling up. Here is one important headline from just a few days ago. "U.S. consumer confidence hits 14-year high." That is right; tax reform is contributing to a dynamic, growing economy, and Americans are taking notice.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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In fact, according to the Wall Street Journal, "Optimism improved markedly for households in the bottom third of income distribution." Remember that the next time my friends across the aisle claim tax reform is only helping the big guys. It is just a political talking point.

In the real world, businesses large and small are thriving. In my home State of Kentucky, Goodwood Brewing Company has crunched the numbers and expects a tax reform savings of \$30,000. They are planning to use it to purchase new equipment and hire new employees. According to the CEO, Ted Mitzlaff, tax reform is offering "a significant benefit—hardly crumbs."

Last Wednesday, President Trump visited a Boeing manufacturing facility in St. Louis to hear how tax reform is helping those Americans. For Boeing's workers, tax reform means a new \$300 million investment in workforce development, training, philanthropy, and workplace improvements, but the President didn't just hear from the hometown crowd.

Bonnie Brazzeal works in the cafeteria at the College of the Ozarks—that is in Southwest Missouri, more than 250 miles away from St. Louis. Bonnie made the trip to tell President Trump: "I work in the cafeteria at [the] College of the Ozarks alongside the hard-working students and I am grateful for the bonus. . . . I put mine in savings for my retirement." Renee Crooker, also at the College of the Ozarks, said: "This bonus could not have come at a better time." Her daughter was gravely ill but out of the country. Renee's tax reform bonus enabled her to fly to her daughter's bedside. Brandon Pister is a supervisor at Mid-Am Metal Forming. He received a tax bonus too. It helped him afford the deductible when his 2-year-old son needed surgery.

These Americans' tax reform stories are amazing and so is the fact that only one Senator from Missouri voted to help all this good news happen. Their senior Senator joined Democrats in a party-line vote to block tax reform and keep Washington's foot on the brake of our economy. When Democratic leaders called these historic middle-class tax cuts crumbs, the senior Senator from Missouri followed suit and called them scraps.

I am proud that Republicans, including Missouri's junior Senator, looked past this partisan rhetoric and stood up for the middle-class families who deserve to keep more of their own money. Because we did, Bonnie, Renee, Brandon, and millions more hard-working Americans are already reaping the benefits.

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. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FIX NICS BILL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am pleased to learn that Senator CORY BOOKER, our colleague from New Jersey, is the 73rd cosponsor of the Fix NICS bill, which I have introduced and which I hope will be passed out of the Senate soon. This bill is designed to fix the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which, if it had been working the way it was designed to, would have caught the shooter at Sutherland Springs, perhaps saving the lives of 26 people who lost their lives in that little Baptist church outside of San Antonio; 20 more were shot and will suffer those wounds the rest of their lives.

Today the news brought us the fact that apparently there had been a recommendation by mental health professionals that Nikolas Cruz, the shooter in Parkland, FL, be committed for involuntary treatment, but apparently that never materialized. That was the recommendation, but it never actually happened. If that had happened, under the current law, his name would have been included in the Florida upload of background check information, and that would have prevented him from legally buying a firearm.

So we are starting to see the different data points that begin to paint a picture of the sorts of things that we could do here in Washington, DC, to save lives in these future mass shooting events. We know the President has said to the Department of Justice that he wants bump stocks banned. Of course, that was the instrument used to kill dozens of people in Las Vegas and injure 851 more.

So by addressing things like the background check system, improving the mental health response, eliminating the bump stock—which takes a semiautomatic weapon and makes it operate essentially like an automatic weapon—and by providing assistance to our schools so that they can harden themselves against potential attacks, we can begin to see a picture of the sorts of things we ought to be doing to prevent future mass shootings like the one we saw most recently in Parkland, FL. It is simply our responsibility to make sure we do everything we humanly can.

I know that after these horrific events, people throw up their hands and say: We need to do something. Well, we need to do something that matters and that will save lives in the future. I think we now begin to have a picture of the sorts of things we can do, starting with the passage of the Fix NICS background check system. It is the only piece of legislation I know of that now has 73 cosponsors, with Senator BOOKER of New Jersey being added as the 73rd today. It is the only bill I know of that has that kind of broad, widespread support and that will actually, if implemented, save lives.

Mr. President, this week we will be discussing another important subject—one that perhaps people do not want to

hear about; rather, they would prefer that it not exist at all because it is a manifestation of evil. The subject is online sex trafficking. Unfortunately, it happens in the shadows of our society. Today, the internet and other forms of technology have made certain forms of predatory, perverted behavior easier to engage in without getting caught.

The legislation we are voting on this week aims to protect our children, provide justice to victims of human trafficking, and to make sure Federal laws do not protect profiteering web domains where sex trafficking occurs.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, or SESTA, would allow sex trafficking victims to have their day in court by eliminating Federal liability protections for technology providers that knowingly—knowingly—facilitate online sex trafficking. It would allow State and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute providers that violate Federal sex trafficking laws.

I am proud to be one of the original cosponsors of this legislation and to have been working on it with my colleagues to get it to this point today. The bill was introduced last summer after a 2-year inquiry by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which culminated in a report. The report found not only that sex trafficking has run rampant in certain online spaces but also that websites have tried to cover it up. Well, no longer. Last fall, the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously approved SESTA, and the House passed it last month. This week, it is our turn.

Senator PORTMAN, the junior Senator from Ohio, has been this bill's greatest champion since its inception. He has been informing us time and again of the ways in which sex trafficking has moved—as he likes to say it—from the street corner to the smartphone. He spoke on the floor earlier this year and reminded us that even as technology develops and gives us new opportunities to learn, to innovate, and to connect with one another, it is not an unalloyed good. In the wrong hands, by the wrong people, it can be misused. As Senator PORTMAN urged us, we need to shine a light onto the "dark side of the internet," an area he called a "stain on our national character." He is absolutely right, of course. The buying and selling of young people for sex is a moral scourge, and how we respond is a measure of our national conscience.

In the committee's investigation, one website in particular came up over and over and over again; that is, backpage.com, which is responsible for perhaps three-quarters of all child trafficking reports—three-quarters. It eventually became clear that even though that site was actively helping to sell young women for sex and even though the victims and their families were suing backpage.com in response, none of the lawsuits were successful because of what some people are coming to believe is an outdated immunity for

technology providers under a Federal law known as the Communications Decency Act. Courts have repeatedly emphasized that the broad reach of one section of that statute protects websites that help to buy and sell underage girls for sex. Judges across the country have said it is up to Congress to change the law, and now it is our time to do just that.

The original law was intended to protect free speech, which, of course, is important. I, of course, like all of our colleagues, am a firm believer in the First Amendment, but free speech is no license to engage in illegal activity. Free speech can't be used as an excuse to offer young people into sexual servitude. And the internet cannot be a safe place for terrorists and child sex traffickers.

At last count, 67 Senators have joined this effort as cosponsors. We are joined by anti-human trafficking advocates, law enforcement organizations, State attorneys general, the civil rights community, faith-based groups, and tech companies like Facebook and Oracle. We have all made clear that we stand behind SESTA.

I hope our colleagues will join me in voting for this important legislation this week and ensure that websites and online platforms can be held accountable for facilitating sex trafficking.

YEMEN RESOLUTION

On another matter, Mr. President, this week, the Senate may vote on a privileged resolution offered by three of our colleagues—the junior Senators from Utah, Vermont, and Connecticut—which would direct the President to cut off financial support and other support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. This, of course, is a proxy war, in many ways, between Iran, which has intervened in the civil war in Yemen, and—not only to allow the Saudis the means to defend themselves against incursions and attacks by the Houthis, Iranian-backed rebels, but also to facilitate our relationship with the Saudis and the Emirates, which is very important in terms of our anti-ISIS and anti-al-Qaida effort, with cells of these organizations located in Yemen too.

Our support, of course, is already narrowly circumscribed—our support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. General Mattis, our Secretary of Defense, has described this as our alternative to putting American boots on the ground. We operate by, with, and through our allies by providing logistical support, intelligence, and some technical advice. Currently, in Yemen it takes the forms intelligence-sharing, military advice, and logistical support, such as air-to-air refueling. This is very clearly noncombatant support, at least as traditionally defined and historically known, and it is meant to improve processes and procedures and increase compliance with the international law of armed conflict.

The very support we are providing aids in mitigating civilian casualties

and the deteriorating humanitarian crisis brought on by the Iranian-backed Houthis. I know the Presiding Officer has been leading the charge on addressing the humanitarian crisis there, which is mind-boggling, to be sure.

Contrary to the resolution's sponsors' claims, though, the U.S. military is not engaged in hostilities in Yemen, as that term has historically been understood and applied, since it is not in direct conflict or exchanging fire with Houthi forces. Of course, we all share a concern with what is at stake in Yemen and in Saudi Arabia and in the gulf region but also civilian casualties, which this resolution creates problems with. Almost everyone is aware that Yemen has been suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis for years. Were we to remove U.S. targeting and logistical support from the Saudi coalition, then the humanitarian situation could get even worse than it has been.

Both political parties recognize the important role the United States plays in support of our partners' efforts to push back against the malign forces that have been coalescing in Yemen. In fact, President Obama was the one who first implemented the refueling and logistical support policy that remains in effect today.

In 2016, Senator MENENDEZ—now the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—criticized the international community's failure to address the Iranian-fueled conflicts that included support to a Houthi insurgency that helped topple the internationally recognized Government of Yemen. Senator MENENDEZ went on to say: "I have a sense we are creating a permissive environment."

I agree with Senator MENENDEZ that we should not abandon our partners and leave a "permissive environment"—a vacuum, a void—for bad actors to fill.

If there is one lesson that I thought we learned after 9/11, when 3,000 Americans were killed when two planes were hijacked—actually, four were hijacked; two went into the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon, and one landed in Pennsylvania because passengers on the plane overwhelmed the hijackers—what we learned is that what happens in the Middle East does not stay in the Middle East. What happened in Afghanistan is that the Taliban provided a safe haven for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, and they used that safe haven to train and export their terrorist attacks against countries around the world but primarily against the United States. That is what happened on 9/11/2001.

That is why we can't allow a safe haven, a void, in Yemen, not to mention the fact that Iran continues to use proxies in places like Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, among others, to try to fight the United States in a low-grade war that has been going on literally since 1979. I should mention Iraq as one of those countries as well.

It is precisely because of the delicate and desperate situation in Yemen that

I am making the argument that any consideration to withdraw U.S. troops from fulfilling their limited auxiliary role in this conflict would have broad impacts on our global partnerships and counterterrorism efforts. It is not a decision to be made in haste or a decision to be made lightly; therefore, I believe the idea deserves the careful consideration of the committee of jurisdiction, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If the Senate takes this vote without adequate preparation and deliberation and passes this resolution, we lose that chance for careful consideration. We lose the chance to have the Senate Foreign Relations Committee issue a thoroughly researched and deliberated recommendation to the entire Senate.

Even more troubling is the prospect that this resolution could set a precedent—one in which a few Members' preferred policies are prioritized over the normal Senate procedures and more thoughtful committee deliberation, with unintended global impacts. Yemen is not the only place where we are addressing challenges to peace and to our country by, with, and through allies, without Americans engaging in direct hostilities. So this would have unintended global impact.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis has voiced his concerns over this resolution. In a letter to congressional leadership, he said that new restrictions on the U.S. military could increase civilian casualties and jeopardize our partners' cooperation on counterterrorism efforts. On top of that list would be the Saudis and the Emirates, among others, and other people are watching as well. And it will reduce our influence in the key region.

He warned that a withdrawal of our noncombat support in Yemen could embolden rebels in the area, enable further missile strikes on Saudi Arabia, and threaten shipping lanes in the Red Sea—one of the key chokepoints for international commerce—right there on the western border of Yemen. All this combined could stoke the embers of an even greater regional conflict in the Middle East with unknown consequences. More importantly, it would damage U.S. credibility and strengthen Iran's position in Yemen and throughout the Middle East more broadly.

I hope our colleagues will think soberly and thoughtfully about this resolution and insist that a fulsome debate take place where it belongs, initially, and that is within the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have talked to Senator CORKER, the chairman of that committee. He will speak for himself, but I think he certainly believes that the committee can help the Senate make a good decision after giving the committee an opportunity to have hearings and to consider all the intended and unintended consequences of this resolution.

I know our colleagues who have offered the resolution mean well and their intentions are good, but sometimes—particularly in the area of

international conflict and global interactions with different countries—our actions beget an unintended consequence. I think it is good to be safe in the first place and to take this matter through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where I have every confidence that Senator CORKER, as the chairman, and Ranking Member MENENDEZ can guide the members of that committee through a process that will help us in the end to make a better decision.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. 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.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, it has been 32 days since the tragedy in Parkland. I think Senator NELSON may be coming to the floor very soon. Frankly, every day since then, there has been a series of tragedies all across this country. On average, 90 people lose their lives every single day to gun violence. There has been, over the course of the last year, a mass shooting, on average, every single day. Most of them aren't covered in the newspaper, but there is an incident in which four or more people are shot, on average, more than once per day in this country.

Of course, it has now been more than 5 years since the devastating tragedy in my State, where 20 first graders lost their lives. This is deeply personal to all of us here in this Chamber.

It became very personal to me last week when my 6-year old came home from school to tell me about his active shooter drill. He is 6, and he is in kindergarten. In his kindergarten class, they have a small bathroom that all of the kids in the class use. He explained to me that for their active shooter drill, all 25 kids in his classroom—a whole bunch of 5- and 6-year-olds—were shoved inside this tiny, little bathroom together, crunched together, shoulder to shoulder, with the door locked. Imagine how frightening that would be to a 6-year-old child, even if they didn't completely understand why they were there.

He said to me when he got home that night: Daddy, I didn't like it. In the most powerful, most affluent country in the world, our children should not have to go through that; never mind those who have actually had to face down someone with a gun inside their classroom or inside their school.

What is devastating to the parents in Parkland and Sandy Hook, what is devastating to the parents in Baltimore, in New Haven, and in Chicago is that we refuse to have a debate on the Senate floor about how we can help ad-

dress this epic mass slaughter, this gun violence epidemic in this country.

I have been taking pains over the course of the last 6 months to try to reach out across the aisle and find common ground with my colleagues on some commonsense legislation about changes to our gun laws. I am proud to have worked with Senator CORNYN on a small bill that would encourage States to comply with existing law—the Fix NICS Act. It now has over 60 Republican and Democratic cosponsors, enough that it could overcome a cloture motion.

I have come to the floor today to ask that we come to an agreement—Republicans and Democrats—by which we can have an open debate on the issue of gun violence for the American public before we break for a 2-week Easter recess. We are going to go back to our States and have a wonderful time with our friends and families, while many others continue to grieve all across this country and many others will enter the ranks of those who grieve because, during the 14 days that we will be away, thousands of people will die from gunshot wounds. I just can't imagine that we would make a decision to go home at the end of this week without having had a debate on the Senate floor for the American people to see how we can try to respond to this cry, this call from the American public to do something.

These kids have been amazing. Literally hundreds of thousands of children walked out of school last week, and hundreds of thousands more students and their parents will be here in Washington for marches and at 600 other marches all around the country this weekend.

The polls tell us over and over again that 9 out of 10 Americans want us to take bold steps forward. Record numbers of American citizens believe the laws that exist today are not sufficient. This isn't a controversial issue outside of Washington. It is controversial only here, inside this Chamber. If we remain silent, if we refuse to have a debate on the Senate floor, we are failing the people who sent us here.

I have come to the floor today to propose a very reasonable path forward so that we can have a debate and some up-or-down votes on proposals this week. From what I understand, there is still a lot of discussion happening with respect to the budget. Obviously, we have to get that done by the end of the week, but it is not ready yet, so we have time this week to have a short but meaningful debate on the issue of guns.

Here is what I am proposing. I am proposing that we have a unanimous consent agreement whereby we can have a time-limited debate—I would suggest perhaps not more than 6 hours—and at the end of that period of time, we have six votes, three votes propounded by the Democratic side and three votes on measures propounded by the Republican side.

I think it is no secret the amendments that Senate Democrats would offer. We would want to see a vote on universal commercial background checks to make sure that commercial sales of guns are subject to background checks. That is something President Trump said he was for at the White House, and he has encouraged the Congress to work on it. Let's have an up-or-down vote on background checks.

I think Democrats would clearly want to see the bipartisan compromise, which has been worked out by Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator GRAHAM with respect to protective orders, red flag orders, come before the Chamber. It simply makes sense that we do what Florida is doing: Pass a law that allows for law enforcement, after a viable court process, to take away weapons temporarily from someone who poses a threat. The problem in Florida was, even if they had done something about this young man, they didn't have the legal ability to take his weapons away, even if he had made those kinds of threats in public. Florida is correcting that with their new law. We should do the same at the Federal level.

On our side, there is also interest in talking about the kinds of weapons that are legal and the kinds of weapons that are not. I am a believer, of course, that there is a class of military-style tactical semiautomatic weapons that are best if they are not in the hands of civilians. Obviously, that issue divides our side too. So if that were to come up for a vote, there will be Democrats for it and Democrats against it.

On the other two measures, there will be Republicans for them and Republicans against them. Some Republicans are for universal background checks; some aren't. There are many Republicans on record as being for protective orders, and there are others who will not vote for them.

We will have no idea, the American public will have no idea, and our constituents will have no idea what we are really willing to do and what we are not willing to do unless we have a debate. This is our last chance before we go home.

What I am proposing, I think, is reasonable, practical, and viable. We can get it done—six total amendments to the Fix NICS Act, time limited, perhaps only 6 hours. We could be in and out of that debate in a day. I have talked with my leadership about it. I am confident that Democratic leadership would support that path forward, and I propose it to Republican leadership tonight, as we enter this week, as a means of having this debate that the American public so badly needs. The alternative is unthinkable—going home, letting over a month pass since Parkland, since this outcry for action from kids across America, and not even attempting to get something done here.

I understand this issue is still difficult. I don't understand why my Republican colleagues will not support

something like background checks, an issue supported by 97 percent of Americans. It is pretty hard to find anything in America that is supported by 97 percent of Americans. Apple pie and Grandma probably don't get 97 percent approval ratings in this country, but universal background checks do. So, yes, I am frustrated that my Republican colleagues don't just come to the floor and agree to pass something that has mind-blowing universal support in the public, but what is more offensive is that we don't even try.

What is more offensive to me is that we don't even make an attempt to put these measures on the floor of the Senate and let them be voted up or down. I don't want the gun lobby to have veto power over the legislation that gets passed here, but even worse than that is for the gun lobby to have veto power over what we even debate.

I propose a total of six amendments and a total of 6 hours of debate. I would argue that is insufficient to meet the moment, but I get it that time is running out, that there is not a lot of interest from some Members on the Republican side to enter into this debate. So we are very willing to have a short, time-limited debate to see what we can get consensus on and what we can't get consensus on, and whatever moves out of this building, whatever amendments get passed, then we live with it and live to fight another day.

It has been 5 years since the tragedy in my State and now 32 days since Parkland. I don't think we should wait one day longer before we have an open debate on the Senate floor about how we, as those entrusted with the safety of our children, do something about the epidemic of gun violence in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to reflect on the landmark legislation that this body passed with overwhelming bipartisan support last week. It isn't every day that folks in Congress can work together in a bipartisan way to get something done that will benefit Main Streets across rural America, but that is exactly what we did last week. I am very proud of that effort.

I say a big thank-you to the chairman of the Banking Committee, Chairman CRAPO, for the work he has done, his ability to listen, his commonsense perspective, and his patience. It would not have happened without those qualities that Chairman CRAPO exhibited.

I also want to single out three Senators who worked very hard on this bill. There are a number of others who did, too, but I am just going to mention Senators HEITKAMP, DONNELLY, and WARNER. Those folks did yeoman's work in bringing into view the challenges that our banking industry has out there, coming up with solutions for

those challenges, and coming up with consumer protections to put into this bill to move it forward. There were many others. I think there were 17 or 18 cosponsors on the Democratic side of the aisle, but I say a special thank you to Senators HEITKAMP, DONNELLY, and WARNER for their advocacy, input, knowledge, expertise, and their ability to work to get things done.

People ask me: Senator TESTER, why did you write this bill? Well, I was a part of the folks who wrote this bill for good reason. I remember very well that during the financial crisis, then-Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson came in—it was in 2008, I believe—and said that we were on the cusp of a financial meltdown in this country. I remember some of the free and irresponsible activities that were done in the financial system. I remember bringing regulators in front of the Banking Committee and ripping them up one side and down the other as to why we had gotten into this situation. In the end, we came up with a bill called Dodd-Frank.

Dodd-Frank was put together after a lot of public input and a lot of hearings, and it was put into effect really to regulate the folks who got us into the situation we were in. At that moment in time, we had banks that were too big to fail, folks who were doing no-doc or low-doc loans, and foreclosures happening everywhere. We put in the regulation.

One of the things we heard when we put in the Dodd-Frank regulation was that it was a big bill and that it was going to need to be changed, adapted—however you want to put it—moving forward. I believe that bill was passed in 2009. Here we are 8 or 9 years later, and we look at Dodd-Frank and see that in some cases, it has done exactly as was intended, especially for the larger banks. Some could argue that there is more work to be done there.

One of the negative things that resulted from the Dodd-Frank regulation was that some of that regulation bled down onto our local community banks and credit unions. This is particularly concerning to me because I come from a very rural part of this country. It is a small town where, when my grandfather homesteaded, they had all sorts of options when they marketed their grain. In the 1940s and 1950s, when my folks took over in my small town, I believe there were five grain elevators there. When Sharla and I took over in the late 1970s, there were three. Today, there is one.

You ask, why does that have anything to do with the banking industry, JON? Well, it is consolidation. And the consolidation didn't happen overnight; it took decades. You end up with less competition in the marketplace when it comes to selling your grains.

That same thing could be adapted to what has gone on in our community banks over the last 8 or 9 years, where they have been bought up by bigger banks. The bigger banks will tell you

that they have to get bigger to be able to compete with the regulations put on them. So they were bought up, and the same thing will extrapolate out over time.

Those folks who say: Well, this isn't necessary because banks are making a lot of money—look, banks may be operating today, but they are looking into the future, as any good business does, and they are saying to themselves: Do I really have what it takes to stick around? They can see the writing on the wall, and they are selling out because of it. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about this—this will result in less consumer choice and more consolidation, making the bigger banks even bigger and really helping the folks who caused the crisis back in 2008—ultimately, the biggest of the big banks.

We have seen the consolidation at grocery stores, grain elevators, and even bars. The truth is that it isn't all due to one single thing. The consolidation in the financial industry and on the ground isn't due to just regulations. Technology has its impact, and a moving population also has its impact.

As I looked at this 5 years ago, I said: If we don't do something to tweak Dodd-Frank, we are going to end up in a situation where we don't have consumer choice to buy that house or expand that business or start that new business—what entrepreneurs do. So as a policymaker, I thought it was my job to look ahead to the next generation of people who are going to be out there in rural America, whether it is a Main Street small business or a farm or a family who is working for a business. That is why I helped write this bill, because from a rural America perspective, it was the right thing to do, and it was time to do something for the next generation, for our kids and our grandkids, so that they could have the kind of opportunity that, quite frankly, my folks and my grandparents had given to my generation.

I am not the kind of person who will sit back on the sidelines and complain about stuff over a cup of coffee. When we see a problem, my folks taught me to work and try to fix it. I see a problem, and there is little doubt in my mind that if we had not done what we did last week to give some regulatory relief to community banks and credit unions, things would have continued to get worse in rural America. They still may get worse in rural America, but at least we have done what we needed to do in this body to try to change that.

There are some out there who, for whatever reason—and I haven't quite been able to figure it out yet—are spreading misinformation about this bill. Maybe it is just the day we live in. So let me set the record straight about this bill.

This bill does not help the Wall Street banks. It does not. Those who say it does are not correct. This bill does not set us up for another financial crisis. In fact, the authors of the original Dodd-Frank bill, Chris Dodd and

Barney Frank—both smart guys whom I admire—wrote:

As the authors of the original Dodd-Frank reform law, we want all Montanans to know that the banking bill Senator Tester helped write does not dismantle Dodd-Frank as some people claim. Jon knows Montana and challenges facing rural America. While we did not agree with every part of this bill, it helps local credit unions and community banks across Montana while keeping protections in place that are designed to prevent another financial crisis.

Those are the original authors. That is why it is called Dodd-Frank—because it is from Chris Dodd and Representative Barney Frank.

The other thing the bill does not do is it does not leave banks unregulated. There is implication by some out there that this bill deregulates 25 of the 40 largest banks. To me, that implication is that now they are no longer regulated. The fact is, all the banks are highly regulated for safety and soundness. Quite frankly, this does not leave banks unregulated. They still have plenty of regulation to go through.

In conclusion, the bill we passed last week does several things. I believe it is going to increase access to capital, particularly in rural America. I think it makes the regulation fit the risk, while still continuing to crack down on risky behavior. It has great consumer protection components to it. Last and certainly not least, from my perspective, it is good for rural America.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention an issue that is important to millions of individuals who understand that American citizenship is something that ought to be treasured.

The American people understand that our citizenship is a blessing and shouldn't be given away cheaply. Unfortunately, for too many years, this body has witnessed the perversion and degradation of a program that sells—yes, we sell citizenship to some people.

This program originally had a good purpose. In return for investing money in underserved areas and creating good-paying American jobs, immigrant entrepreneurs could eventually become U.S. citizens. Sadly, in the last decade, this program has been hijacked by big-moneyed New York City real estate interests—to be specific, the Real Estate Roundtable. These developers now take almost all the foreign investment from this program, and for the last few years, they have actively prevented this body from enacting any reforms and needed reforms.

For those who are not aware, I am talking about the EB-5 Regional Center Program. I have been fighting in a bipartisan way for years to reform this corrupt and scandal-clad program. I have been fighting to protect our national security, to ensure foreign investment is going to the most deserving areas, and to make sure that Amer-

ican citizenship isn't sold at rock-bottom prices in order to feed the addiction of New York interests to cheap money. But no matter how hard I fought, each and every time we tried to reform this program, these same moneyed interests have used their political influence and political connections to block any meaningful reforms. This is sickening and is exactly why most American people sometimes question what we do here in Washington, DC.

After more than 3 years of trying to fix this broken and scandal-plagued program, I have finally come to the conclusion that it can't be fixed, and since it can't be fixed, the EB-5 Regional Center Program needs to be terminated. Let me explain to my colleagues and directly to the American people exactly how I have reached that conclusion.

Several years ago, I started working with then-Ranking Member LEAHY of the Judiciary Committee on reforms to the EB-5 Regional Center Program. Through the hard work and dedication of our staffers, we discovered the program is riddled with fraud and corruption and poses a real and serious threat to our national security. I will explain some of those things we discovered.

First, investments can be spent before business plans are approved.

Next, regional center operators can charge excessive fees of foreign nationals in addition to their required investments.

Next, none of the jobs created have to be direct or verifiable jobs but rather are indirect and based on estimates of economic modeling; again, not knowing for sure if jobs are created.

Next, investment funds from foreign sources are not adequately vetted. Gifts and loans from anyone are acceptable sources of funds from foreign nationals.

Next, there is no prohibition against foreign governments owning or operating these regional centers or projects. So let me emphasize—that is right—foreign governments can own businesses that sell our citizenship. Now, think about that.

Another problem is regional centers don't have to certify that they comply with security laws.

Next, there are no required background checks on anyone associated with the regional centers.

Just take this example: One need look no further than the indictment last September of two Chinese fraudsters who stole more than \$50 million in foreign investment and managed to sell U.S. citizenship to individuals on the Chinese Government's most wanted list.

Next, gerrymandering continues in rural and urban distressed areas and, as a result, lose out.

There is no transparency on how funds are spent and who is paid and what investors are told about the projects they invest in.

The list can still go on and on and on, but I have given my colleagues just

some examples. I could literally speak for hours about the corruption of the program.

Faced with this appalling list of fraud, corruption, and national security loopholes, for 3 years, I have been working with Senator LEAHY and our counterparts in the House of Representatives to produce real EB-5 reform. Our staffers have spent countless hours, nights, and weekends meeting with congressional colleagues and industry stakeholders to hammer out a compromise that is fair to all sides, but our offers have constantly been rejected by the Big Money industries, and related real estate roundtables, every single time—not just this time. We reached a compromise with the vast differences of views to start out but still ended up with a compromise. Somehow, these powerful interests are able step in and stop it. This time has been no different than at least three previous times we have gotten this far.

Let me explain how we have been doing this. For the last year, my staff, along with Chairman GOODLATTE of the House Judiciary Committee, Senator CORNYN, and Senator FLAKE—these teams have worked around the clock to produce an EB-5 reform package. Everyone made numerous concessions in order to reach a compromise. After more than 20 meetings, and of course countless hours of drafting, we produced a reform package that was fair to all sides. Our reforms would reauthorize the Regional Center Program for 6 years, providing the certainty that industry has long said it craves.

Our compromise would have permanently set aside 3,000 visas for rural and underserved urban areas and would have increased the minimum investment amount to \$925,000. In recognition of longstanding industry concerns, we agreed to reduce the investment differential between nonpriority areas and priority areas to a mere \$100,000.

Finally, we would have implemented a host of badly needed integrity measures that would have cracked down on investment fraud, cracked down on foreign corruption, and cracked down on bad business practices.

Our reforms had the unanimous support of Invest in the USA, the largest EB-5 trade association. Our reforms had the support of the EB-5 Rural Alliance, a group working to ensure that rural America has a fair shake at attracting EB-5 money.

Why are rural areas such a high concern? Because, quite frankly, way back in the 1990s, that was one of the goals of the EB-5 program—to help economic development in rural America, but these reforms weren't acceptable to the Big Money New York industry stakeholders that currently dominate the program. Because Big Money interests aren't happy with these reforms, we have been told they will not become law.

I have laid out a lot here, letting it sink in for a minute. In spite of the fact that reforms were agreed to by

congressional offices and had the support of the largest EB-5 trade association, they will not become law because a few EB-5 businesses, with lots and lots of money and lots and lots of political power, have used their political connections and influence, once again—for the third time; maybe even the fourth time over a period of that many years—to reach some sort of reform on a program we have demonstrated—I shouldn't say we have demonstrated—we have repeated what the FBI and national security people and people in the Justice Department have said about the shortcomings of this program.

I said, at the beginning of my remarks, I finally realize this program cannot be reformed. I would have to say this for my present ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, she has been telling me that for three or four years: Forget about reforming it; we ought to do away with it. The Regional Center Program is simply too corrupted to be saved, and it needs to be ended.

The American people deserve better than what we are seeing as a result of hard-working Members of the House and Senate trying to reform this program and getting nothing done.

So what happens here at the last minute? It will get stuck in an omnibus appropriations bill to extend it again for a period of time with the same bad practices that are going on. Why does that have to happen when it is so obvious what is wrong?

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator WYDEN and I be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each prior to the vote.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this Saturday, students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, are going to lead hundreds of thousands of Americans all around the country in calling for commonsense gun control measures at the March For Our Lives.

Since this terrible shooting in Parkland, FL, on Valentine's Day, we have seen students all across the country say: Enough. This is a movement that cannot be stopped, and, frankly, we owe it to the students—the next generation—to get this right in the policies and the laws we adopt.

Just a few weeks ago, I went to one of the student's homes in Parkland—a group of them. We talked. Indeed, just last week, a number of the students came to my office here in Washington. It is amazing that at 15, 16, and 17 years old, these students are looking to us in this Congress to, at a minimum, consider legislation that could have prevented the slaughter that happened in Parkland just a month ago.

In Florida, we have witnessed these students march on the State capitol

and demand action. The legislature listened, in part. They made some changes in the law, like changing the age to 21 to buy an assault rifle. That is the same age in Florida law that says you can't buy a handgun until age 21. It was a small step, but it was a step in the right direction to address the problem we are confronting, but we need to do more.

I am so grateful for the resilience of these students, the power of their voices, and the strength of their activism, moving the lawmakers in Washington and in State capitals all across this country to act.

The students, the parents, the teachers, all of them we have asked: What do you want? And they say, obviously, we want commonsense things. We can start with universal background checks in the purchase of a weapon. That would then allow, universally, if you have a background check, you couldn't go to a gun show where there is not a federally licensed dealer and acquire a weapon without having a background check. Why is having a background check a commonsense thing to do? Because you not only pick up someone with a criminal record, you would pick up someone who had a restraining order for whatever reason—it could be mental, it could be domestic abuse. You would pick up somebody being on the terrorist watch list or you could pick up someone who had been on the terrorist watch list. That was the case with the killer in the Orlando Pulse Night Club shooting.

Clearly, that is a commonsense thing to approach this problem.

There is another commonsense thing; that is, these military assault rifles with the long—what I call the banana clips. These are clips that are shaped like a banana or even straight ones that hold 30 rounds. You know, there are State laws in the country that if you are going to hunt wild game, there are certain restrictions on the number of shells or bullets you can put in your gun. My goodness, why wouldn't we want to say there is a limitation on the number of bullets in a clip instead of these long clips that have 30 rounds?

It was used even in the shooting out in Arizona that our colleague Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was one of the victims of, and it was when the gunman was reloading with another clip that he was tackled to the ground; otherwise, there would have been more people who would have been harmed that day.

So it is another commonsense thing that people are asking for and that these students are bringing to light as they argue this case; that they don't want to be in a school where they have this kind of violence that is threatened. The students, the teachers, the parents just want our schools and our communities to be safe. As we have seen across the country, we have had too much violence with these military-style weapons. Nightclubs, churches, movie theaters, outdoor concerts—it

goes on and on. Students want to feel safe, and what some students have witnessed is unimaginable.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. The velocity of a bullet fired from an assault weapon compared to the velocity of a handgun is three times the velocity or speed of the handgun bullet. As a result, when that bullet hits its target, the energy is nine times that hitting the target than what a handgun bullet does.

They built a movement now that inspires student walks across the country. In just 5 days, they are inspiring marches across the country, and the future is bright because of these students. But it is up to us to make sure that what happened in Parkland never happens again.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF KEVIN MCALEENAN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a few minutes the Senate will vote on the nomination of Mr. Kevin McAleenan to serve as Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As the ranking Democrat on the committee with jurisdiction over trade policy, I am particularly interested in working with Mr. McAleenan on an issue that is of longstanding, bipartisan concern; and that is tougher, smarter enforcement of America's trade laws.

Mr. McAleenan is a longtime public servant, and he has been aware that the Finance Committee has put in many hours over the last few years to guarantee that this agency has tough new tools to fight trade cheats and protect our workers. It is vital that those tools be put to good use because their trade-related mission—defending American jobs from trade rip-offs—has too often gotten short shrift. It doesn't matter what kind of trade deals you sign or what laws you put on the books if you aren't serious about enforcing them. That is where their trade mission comes in.

In my discussions with this nominee, it is clear that he understands that when it comes to trade, this country has to do trade done right, and tougher trade enforcement is especially important.

I will close with the mention of another issue that this agency has seen over the last few months, and that is the onslaught of Americans being stopped at the border and forced to unlock their personal electronic devices for inspection. It clearly invades their personal privacy.

Senator PAUL and I have introduced bipartisan legislation on this—there is bipartisan legislation in the other body—that recognizes that law enforcement should have to get a warrant before searching a device at the border, and it comes with strong protections to

let Americans know when and how they consent to having their devices searched.

In my judgment, this is just common sense, particularly because the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that digital is fundamentally different. They did that when they ruled that law enforcement needs a warrant to search a phone after an arrest.

We are going to keep pushing for our bipartisan legislation. In the meantime, we need to work with this agency on this critical issue that ensures, once again, that this country recognizes that security and liberty are not mutually exclusive and that you can have policies that do both.

I want to continue to engage with him, if confirmed, to make sure that the constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans do not disappear at the border.

As I indicated, he is a public servant with many, many years of experience. I support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McAleenan nomination?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Cantwell	Coons
Baldwin	Capito	Corker
Barrasso	Carper	Cornyn
Bennet	Casey	Cortez Masto
Blunt	Cassidy	Cotton
Boozman	Cochran	Crapo
Brown	Collins	Cruz

Daines	Kennedy	Risch
Donnelly	King	Rounds
Enzi	Klobuchar	Rubio
Ernst	Lankford	Sasse
Fischer	Leahy	Scott
Flake	Lee	Shaheen
Gardner	Manchin	Shelby
Graham	McCaskill	Smith
Grassley	McConnell	Stabenow
Hassan	Moran	Sullivan
Hatch	Murkowski	Tester
Heitkamp	Murphy	Thune
Heller	Murray	Tillis
Hirono	Nelson	Warner
Hoeven	Paul	Whitehouse
Inhofe	Perdue	Wicker
Isakson	Peters	Wyden
Johnson	Portman	Young
Jones	Reed	

NAYS—19

Blumenthal	Harris	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Udall
Duckworth	Markey	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	
Gillibrand	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Roberts
McCain	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 339, H.R. 1865, an act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Kennedy, John Cornyn, Dan Sullivan, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, Richard Burr, Johnny Isakson, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Patrick J. Toomey, Mike Rounds, Rob Portman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865, an act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Flake	Murphy
Baldwin	Gardner	Murray
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Graham	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Harris	Portman
Booker	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Brown	Heinrich	Rounds
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sanders
Cardin	Hirono	Sasse
Carper	Hoeven	Schatz
Casey	Inhofe	Schumer
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johnson	Shaheen
Collins	Jones	Shelby
Coons	Kaine	Smith
Corker	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Tester
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Udall
Daines	Manchin	Van Hollen
Donnelly	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Merkley	Young
Feinstein	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—2

Paul	Wyden
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NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Roberts
McCain	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ALLOW STATES AND VICTIMS TO FIGHT ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we just had a vote in this Chamber on a very significant piece of legislation. It was the motion to proceed to it. It was agreed to with good Republican and Democratic majorities, with both sides of the aisle supporting moving to this debate.

Because we have cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, I feel confident that we will get to an end point, and we

must. This issue of trafficking human beings is something the Senate must stand up against, particularly because there is a Federal law that now permits trafficking online that otherwise would be considered a criminal act. I want to talk a little about that legislation tonight.

We probably will not have the final vote until Wednesday, and some of the information I will provide tonight will be setting the reasons, the basis for doing this legislation. Then, between now and Wednesday, we will have to learn more about the specifics of it, what is happening online, and how the U.S. Senate can step in and provide the legislation to remediate what is an obvious problem to anyone who looks at this issue.

Human trafficking is such an egregious crime. We all, I hope, agree with that. It is also a very lucrative crime—\$150 billion a year is the estimate, and that is probably second only to the drug trade in terms of the amount of money involved. Think about this. This is selling human beings.

The Senate has taken steps in this body in a bipartisan way over the past 6 or 7 years to focus on this issue, and I certainly commend my colleagues for that. Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Democrat, and I, as a Republican, started a bipartisan caucus to stop human trafficking about 6 years ago. We started with the two of us, and now there are a couple of dozen. There are many Members who are engaged and involved in this.

Over those past 6 years, the Senate has passed legislation to increase the penalties on those who buy children for sex. For the first time in a decade and a half, we increased the Federal penalties.

We have helped to stop international trafficking by U.S. Government contractors overseas with legislation that was signed into law.

We have helped with regard to finding missing children by requiring for the first time that those missing children have a photograph attached to them. Unbelievably, until that legislation, most kids in my home State of Ohio and other States who went missing did not have the information provided to law enforcement and others—people who work in shelters, people who are in the juvenile justice system—to be able to find those children. Why is that so important? Because, as you can imagine, kids who go missing are sometimes the most vulnerable to being trafficked.

We also passed legislation to improve the data on trafficking. There is legislation called the Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act, which we passed in this body to provide better information about this problem so we could come up with better solutions by understanding what is going on. Trafficking is in the shadows. It is very profitable, but it is an illicit activity. So that legislation was critical.

By the way, the primary author of that legislation was Senator RON

WYDEN of Oregon. Senator WYDEN will probably be on this floor over the next couple of days talking about some of the concerns he has about the online legislation we have, but I want you to know that Senator WYDEN has been out front on opposing trafficking through this Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act. I was the lead Republican on that legislation, so I worked with him, and I commend him for that.

We also passed legislation to change the paradigm in Federal law and treat these children who are trafficked as victims rather than as criminals. The key is to get these young people into treatment, longer term recovery, and deal with what is, as you can imagine, a very traumatic situation—often related to drugs as well, so drug treatment. Something that I think is perhaps the most important thing we can do is to understand that these are victims who, in order to get back on their feet, need to be taken from the criminal justice system and put into the kind of treatment they need.

Despite efforts here in the Senate—and by others around the country, by the way—to deal with this trafficking issue and raise an awareness of it, unbelievably today, as we stand here in this country, we are seeing an increase in one type of trafficking, and that is sex trafficking. You might ask, how could that be possible? We passed all this legislation to help. We have gotten increased consciousness about the issue. People are more aware of the problem, and certainly there is a consensus that this is something we ought to crack down on. Yet it is happening. I will tell you what the experts say. They say it is happening for one simple reason, and that is that more and more women and children are being sold online—the ruthless efficiency of the internet. So that is where this legislation focuses, and it focuses there because that is where we see the problem.

Traffickers are using the internet to sell women and children, and we have a responsibility to act. If we don't act, we will allow a Federal law that was passed by this body 21 years ago, which I think inadvertently has created part of the problem by shielding these websites, to remain.

I will talk more about this later in the week as we get into the specifics of our legislation and why it would address the problem, but the bottom line is that we have a real problem.

The anti-trafficking group Polaris—we recently received its 2017 report. The report illustrates the true nature of the crisis. This is the heat chart put up by Polaris. It shows the locations of cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline last year alone, in 2017. As we can see—and this explains why we see such strong, bipartisan support for our legislation—this is happening everywhere, in every State in the Union. Unfortunately, it is increasing, not decreasing, despite all the efforts locally and even here at the Federal level.

The national hotline that Polaris runs—and I hope to be at that hotline, by the way, later this week, as they are opening a new facility and expanding what they are doing—experienced a 13-percent increase in reported cases nationwide just last year. So despite all the efforts, they are actually seeing an increase. In my home State of Ohio alone, 371 cases of human trafficking were reported to the hotlines. Across the country, their hotlines handled a record 8,759 cases in 2017, up from 7,737 reported cases in 2016. Again, these are only the cases that are reported. That doesn't mean there aren't many, many more cases out there that are not reported to the hotlines.

In the 10 years they have operated these hotlines, by the way, human trafficking reports have increased 842 percent. Again, it is unbelievable that this is happening in this country in this century and increasing.

I chair the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. A couple of years ago, being interested in this issue, we started to talk to some of the experts around the country. I met with people back home—particularly the victims of trafficking and some of the survivors—and I kept hearing the same thing from everybody, whether it was the advocacy groups for those being trafficked, law enforcement, or the social service agencies that are helping to treat these women and girls who are dealing with the trauma we talked about earlier. The one thing I kept hearing was the word “backpage.” That is just one website, but it seemed as though there were a lot of people being trafficked on that one website. I certainly heard it back home, where these women and girls said to me: Rob, this has moved from the street corner to the smartphone, and backpage is where I was trafficked.

Nearly 75 percent of all child trafficking reports that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children receives from the public involved backpage—75 percent of the reports.

Another anti-trafficking organization called Shared Hope International says that service providers working with child sex-trafficking victims have reported that more than 80 percent of their clients were bought and sold on backpage.

We talked earlier about how lucrative this business is, but one website seems to have practically monopolized it.

With that knowledge, in 2015 the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, led by Ranking Member CLAIRE McCASKILL from Missouri and me, conducted an investigation. We spent 18 months researching this. We looked at every angle of this issue, and specifically we looked into how backpage operates. It wasn't easy because backpage was not willing to cooperate, as you can imagine. What we did find was that the company was far more complicit in these crimes than we had previously thought.

We subpoenaed backpage for their company documents, and they refused to comply. When you refuse to comply with a subpoena around here, normally we can kind of tell people: Well, if you don't comply, we will bring the full weight of the criminal law on you. They still wouldn't comply. So we had to come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to enforce the subpoenas, which hadn't been done in 21 years around here. Fortunately, when we made our case to our colleagues here in the Senate, everyone in the Senate said: Yes, let's be sure they do comply by taking this to the criminal justice system and allowing our lawyers here to take this case. So we did.

We thought, well, we will win a case at the district court level, which we did, and that will be it. No, they appealed that. We won a case at the circuit court level, and we thought that was it. No, they appealed that. Are you getting the drift here that they did not want to supply these documents and did not want to testify? Finally, we took it all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Supreme Court agreed with us and told them that they had to comply, with the threat of criminal sanctions if they did not.

Having won that, we then found ourselves in possession of over 1 million pages of documents. In other words, they flooded us with documents, and our lawyers did a good job going through them. Through this investigation, we found what some of us had kind of thought might be the case, which was that this company was actually complicit. In other words, they knew what they were doing, and they were knowingly facilitating criminal sex trafficking of vulnerable women and children. They actually coached traffickers on how to edit the adult classified ads to post so-called clean ads for these illegal transactions. Then, of course, they would cover up evidence of those crimes in order to increase their own profits.

In 2006, as an example, backpage executives instructed staff to edit the text of adult ads—not to take them down, mind you, but to edit them—which is exactly how they facilitated this type of trafficking. By October 2010, backpage executives had a formal process in place, we learned through all these documents, of both manual and automated deletion of incriminating words and phrases in ads.

This is an email from one of backpage's executives in 2010. It says:

I'm attaching a spreadsheet with the most current list of coded items to be stripped out. Email your lists to me by the end of the day. . . . Thanks.

In other words, they were telling these people who were posting ads: Oh, you can't say this word or that word because then law enforcement will know that we are engaged in selling underaged girls online. So they told them to take out those words. It is unbelievable.

What kinds of words were stripped out of the ads, allowing sex trafficking posts to stay up without violating the posting words? These are the kinds of words they took out: "teenage," "little girl," "school girl," "Cheerleader" was one of them. For those of you who are literary types, one was "Lolita," which is a novel about an underaged girl and an older man, and also "fresh" and "AMBER Alert."

These are the kinds of people we are dealing with here. Once these incriminating words were removed, the posts could then go on the website. That is how backpage coached the traffickers on how to get away with their crimes. Again, this filter didn't stop the ads, even though they knew it was illegal activity; they only edited them to try to hide that. So it didn't change what was advertised—the fact that these were underaged girls; they only edited the way it was advertised. Of course, this did nothing to stop the criminal activity, but it facilitated it knowingly.

The incentive? Why would backpage go through all of this? Quite simply, profits. This is a very profitable enterprise.

What is the cost of these crimes? It is very profitable, but the cost is human dignity, trauma. The cost is far more than money; it is suffering and sometimes human life. I have heard stories about this. I know my colleagues in the Senate have heard stories about it, and that is why there is so much support for this legislation across the country. These individual stories are compelling, they are powerful, and they are heartbreaking.

Imagine for a moment that your daughter is missing. She has been gone for several weeks. She is 14 years old. Someone says: You ought to look on this website called backpage. So you do. You look on backpage—you are a mom—and you find your daughter.

This is the story of Kubiiki Pride and M.A. She told her story bravely before our Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. She told us the details, and we were able to use that as part of our investigation and to come up with a legislative response. She said she actually told backpage—she called them and said: I found my daughter. She has been missing for weeks. She is on your website. Thank you for taking down the ad and helping me to connect with my daughter.

As you can imagine, these were sexually explicit photographs of a 14-year-old girl. She didn't know whether she was alive or dead, so she was excited to find her but appalled by what she saw, as any of us would be.

What did backpage say? We can't take down the ad because you didn't pay for it, did you?

She said: Of course, I didn't pay for it; she is my daughter.

That is the level of evil we are talking about.

This is another story of another brave individual who has come forward.

This is Nacole, the mom, and J.S. Nacole also bravely testified in front of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. J.S. was a 15-year-old when she ran away. She loved her family, and she wrote them a 5-page letter saying how much she loved them, but she chose to leave the safety of her family and home, and she ended up in a homeless shelter for teens. A 22-year-old woman who was posing as a teen there approached her and said, "I can help you make some money" and then introduced her to a pimp, who then sold her on backpage. For more than 3 months, she was sold online multiple times a day.

Finally, an undercover police officer posing as a customer rescued her. Thankfully, he did, because for some many of the girls, the story goes on and sometimes ends in a very tragic way.

This is Yvonne Ambrose. Yvonne actually testified before the Commerce Committee. She and her mom did a beautiful job talking about her heartbreak and her tragic encounter with backpage. Yvonne got a call on Christmas Eve in 2016 that every parent dreads. It was about her daughter Desiree. They said in the call that her 16-year-old daughter had been murdered after being exploited and sold for sex on backpage.com. One of the backpage customers apparently was the one who murdered her beautiful daughter.

Yvonne is honoring Desiree's memory by working with us to try to hold these websites accountable, and Kubiiki and Nacole are fighting for justice.

These are only three examples tonight, but there are so many others and so many I have experienced back home. Again, these are heartbreaking stories. One girl told me she started to be trafficked at age 9 by her father. Some others have told me of not having parents at home, being in foster homes and leaving the foster homes either when they were emancipated at age 18 or earlier and the horrible situation they found themselves in.

I have had the opportunity to meet with survivors in cities around Ohio—in Dayton at Oasis House, in Columbus at Alvis, in Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. The majority of these young women tell me the same thing about backpage. Usually there are drugs involved as well that create a dependency.

Unbelievably, for years, these websites have gotten away with this because when parents like Yvonne, Kubiiki, or Nacole file a lawsuit for damages to try to stop what is going on, they are told: We are immune. When the prosecutors in these local communities step up and ask: "How could this illegal activity be going on? This is illegal to do on the street corners, certainly it is illegal to do online," the judges say: We are immune.

We will get into this later as to why that happens, how it happens, and what

we are doing about it in this legislation. I look forward to that discussion. I look forward to the debate on the Senate floor as to how we came up with a very targeted and very specific approach to this that doesn't interfere with the freedom of the internet at all, but it does stop activity that never was imagined. When Congress passed a law 21 years ago, it never imagined it would permit this kind of criminal activity online.

Tonight I thank those families who had the courage to step forward, tell their stories publicly, and channel their grief into something constructive, which is to come up with a legislative solution that helps address this problem so the next 14-year-old daughter or 16-year-old daughter does not find herself in these same horrible situations, with all the trauma and all the heartbreak that occurs.

Justice cannot be seen, but its absence can be felt, and that is what is happening now, an absence of justice. Those who have been trafficked online only see the websites that knowingly facilitated it to prosper and escape legal consequences. That has to stop. That is an injustice to me.

I look forward to further debate again this week. I look forward to the vote on Wednesday. If we can pass the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, we will make a difference. We will save lives. We will save women, girls, and boys from going through this traumatic experience and instead enable them to achieve their God-given potential in life.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

YEMEN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight to discuss America's role in the crisis in Yemen.

I have here a picture of the fractured remains of buildings, people fleeing from those buildings, and a small child, probably in her father's arms. This represents the challenge of the bombing that is going on in that nation. I am here tonight to discuss America's role in that bombing and the fact that here in the Chamber we need to debate how it is we have come to the point of supporting this bombing when the War Powers Act clearly says we should not be.

When our Founding Fathers wrote our Constitution, they designated the President as the Commander in Chief, but they gave Congress, the House, and the Senate the sole power to declare war. Article I, section 8 states unequivocally: "The Congress shall have the power . . . to declare war."

It is only Congress that can take our Nation from peace to war. If one has any doubt about that, consider the words of James Madison himself, the father of our Constitution. He said: "In no part of the constitution is more wisdom to be found, than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive department."

Now, the clearly stated responsibility in our Constitution was reinforced by the 1973 War Powers Resolution, often referred to as the War Powers Act. That particular piece of legislation stated as its purpose the following: "It is the purpose of this joint resolution to fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution of the United States and insure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities." It goes on to say: "The constitutional powers of the President as Commander-in-chief to introduce United States Armed Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, are exercised only"—and that is a critical word—"pursuant to (1) a declaration of war, (2) specific statutory authorization, or (3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States."

The picture I showed you showing the fractured remains of buildings and people fleeing that bombing in Yemen, that activity is not taking place subject to a declaration of war by this body—we have done no such thing—nor is there any specific statutory authorization for our assistance in that, nor is there a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States where that is justified.

Tomorrow this Chamber will take up this issue. We will be voting on a resolution put forward by our colleagues Senator SANDERS, Senator LEE, and Senator MURPHY calling for the removal of our Armed Forces in this role of supporting Saudi Arabia in this war against the Houthis.

There are two basic components of our presence in Yemen, and those are very distinct and not to be confused. The first is counterterrorism efforts in which we are directly engaged against associated forces of al-Qaida. This is a role that stems from the authorization for the use of military force that we passed in this Chamber in 2001. Members may come to the floor and argue about whether that initial authorization for use of military force involving al-Qaida in Afghanistan has been stretched beyond recognition. I would argue it has been stretched substantially and perhaps beyond recognition, but that is not the issue we are debating this week.

This week we are addressing the central issue of whether our involvement in supporting Saudi Arabia in its role in war against the Houthis in Yemen has violated our Constitution and the War Powers Act, and we have to confront and face how our assistance is contributing to a vast humanitarian crisis in that country. We may not have boots on the ground in support of the Saudi war against the Houthis, but we are very involved.

As we judge whether this involvement is violating the Constitution and the War Powers Act, we should turn to

section 8, the interpretation of the joint resolution. It says:

Authority to introduce United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances shall not be inferred—

(1) from any provision of law . . . including any provision contained in any appropriation Act, unless—

This is the key—

such provision specifically authorizes the introduction of the United States Armed Forces into hostilities.

It is very clear. The interpretation of this joint resolution says there is no room here to be participating in hostilities—that is a war—even in a supporting role, unless it has been specifically authorized by Congress. This interpretation of the joint resolution section of the War Powers Act goes on to say:

(c) For purposes of this joint resolution, the term "introduction of United States Armed Forces" includes—

You see the language here—

the assignment of member of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged.

There is the key fact that was laid out when we passed the War Powers Act. This War Powers Act doesn't just address us directly engaging in hostilities or directly confronting an enemy on the battlefield, it includes these provisions of commanding, coordinating, participating in the movement of, or accompanying military forces of a foreign country.

There is no question that we are coordinating and participating in the movement of the Saudi forces, so let's take a look at exactly how we are involved. The administration comes back and says: Yes, but we are not directly bombing the Houthis. We are not directly putting boots on the ground and shooting them.

It is clear the War Powers Act includes coordinating with, participating with, supporting, and partnering, if you will, with a foreign country involved in such a war. We are very involved.

First, we are involved by refueling Saudi planes en route to bombing the forces of the Houthis in Yemen. That is pretty direct involvement, and it goes to that language which says "participate in the movement of" those foreign forces. If we are refueling their planes en route to bombing the Houthis, we are participating in the movement of their military forces. A plane, a bomber, is a part of a military force.

Second, we are providing intelligence and thus very directly supporting this war of the Saudis.

Third, we are selling the weapons to them that they are using in this war on the Houthis.

Fourth, we are providing targeting assistance. We have even established a

joint combined planning cell, an operation center, to conduct military intelligence activities in partnership with Saudi Arabia.

Here is why this matters so much: It has a huge impact on the lives of the people in Yemen. It is very possible the planes we refueled are responsible for conducting a series of three airstrikes in Saada last month, killing 5 civilians and wounding 14 more, including 4 children, as well as paramedics trying to pull survivors out of the rubble after that first strike, or that the planes we refueled played a role in striking a hotel last August that turned the building's ceiling black with the charred blood of 50 farmers who were staying in that building. We know that the bombs we have sold to the Saudis are killing many civilians. It is time for us here to reckon with that fact.

A lot of Americans may not even know we are involved in this war. It has not been widely discussed. There are so many things going on across the planet at this time—so much going on in Syria, for example, that perhaps Americans in general are not paying attention. But we should be paying attention because of the carnage that is occurring: 10,000 civilians have been killed since this conflict began. The great, vast bulk of those civilians are dying from air strikes conducted by Saudi Arabia that we are supporting through intelligence and target assistance and refueling. Then there are the consequences of that bombardment. The result is just a tremendous humanitarian crisis.

The Saudis have been involved in blockading the ability to get humanitarian supplies into Yemen—food and medicine and fuel. This has resulted in what the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, has warned could become “the largest famine the world has seen for many decades.” Seven million Yemenis are on the verge of starvation because of this war that we are involved in and the related Saudi blockade of food and medicine.

About every day, 130 Yemeni children die from extreme hunger and disease—130 a day. One of the factors that is killing people is cholera. Since October of 2016—so roughly a little less than a year and a half ago—1 million Yemenis have contracted cholera. More than 2,000 have died from it. It is the largest cholera outbreak in recorded history. Let me say that again: 1 million Yemenis have contracted cholera, and it is the largest cholera outbreak in recorded history. So 7 million Yemenis are on the verge of starvation, 1 million have contracted cholera, and so many are dying because of this war we are involved in.

The death and destruction in Yemen is unimaginable, and the United States needs to take a hard look at the role we are playing—a role we are playing in violation of our Constitution and in violation of the War Powers Act of

1973. That is the issue we are going to be discussing here on the floor.

I know there is some popularity in saying: Let's not look at that humanitarian crisis and our role in it; let's just look at the relationship we have with Saudi Arabia and know that they have helped us in other cases—for example, the war on ISIS. Let's know that they are a good customer for many of our products and for many of our military products. But I say to my colleagues: This issue is bigger than simply a good marketplace or a good relationship with Saudi Arabia. This goes to our involvement, our culpability in the deaths of thousands of Yemenis and 130 children a day through bombs falling on them, through hunger, starvation, through cholera.

It is hard for me to think about this young child in this picture, this young Yemeni, who clearly is the victim either of cholera or starvation or some other consequence of this conflict. But imagine 130 of these children dying every day.

It is our responsibility to honor the Constitution, and it is our responsibility as humans on this planet to wrestle with the fact that our involvement is contributing to this vast humanitarian disaster. Let us not abdicate our responsibility on the basis of friendship with another nation based on the fact that they are a good market for our products or that we think they may be future partners in some other agenda. We have a direct responsibility in war and peace that we have not fulfilled, and this week, with this coming resolution tomorrow, is a point that we must wrestle with this. Let us wrestle with it and honor the Constitution and give some integrity to the 1973 War Powers Resolution.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865 be vitiated, and that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, March 21, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1865; further, that the only amendments in order be Wyden amendments Nos. 2212 and 2213; finally, that there be up to 4 hours of debate concurrently on the amendments, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for adoption of each amendment, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with no further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 54

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following

the resumption of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865, on Tuesday, March 20, Senator SANDERS, or his designee, be recognized to offer a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 54; further, that there be up to 4 hours of debate, equally divided between the opponents and the proponents of the resolution, and that following the use or yielding back of that time the Senate vote in relation to the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nikakhtar nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERMONT STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for 50 years, the Vermont State Housing Authority, VSHA, has helped make available secure, safe, and affordable housing in my home State of Vermont.

Founded in 1968, the Vermont State Housing Authority provides thousands of Vermonters with the resources they need to find housing that works for them. As the first statewide housing authority in the Nation, VSHA was a pioneer in the field, as they built a successful program from the ground up without existing State models or best practices to replicate.

Not only does VSHA help Vermonters of all ages and backgrounds find a home through Federal or State programs, they also provide critical support to those who need it most. The VSHA offers a variety of assistance and resources to the refugee population that has settled in Vermont, including free interpreter services and the promise of a friendly face ready to help navigate a new beginning in an unfamiliar culture. Further, VSHA staff make what can be a frightening transition more tailored, personal, and comfortable—helping new citizens acclimate and assimilate into their new communities.

From connecting families in need with resources from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to developing innovative programs that inspire self-sufficiency and long-term independence, to promoting affordable housing for veterans, VSHA is involved in every community in Vermont. VSHA, though the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, helps families achieve economic stability and independence. As of the fall of last year, the program has graduated 194 people and has assisted a total of 153 Vermonters in becoming first-time homeowners through the homeownership program. While homeownership is a critical piece of building wealth and a hallmark of the American dream, it is often a far off dream for many families who struggle just to find a stable and affordable place to call home.

As more and more families struggle to make ends meet, especially when affordable units are few and far in between and housing prices continue to rise, the team at VSHA, led by their executive director of more than 30 years, Richard Williams, has worked hard to ensure that we work to meet the needs of our community. Though support for our most vulnerable populations is first and foremost in the minds of the VSHA team, it is clear that civic engagement and involvement plays a large role as well. The VSHA is involved in partnerships with dozens of Vermont nonprofit organizations, State and Federal agencies, and private sector businesses. Through their work rehabilitating and managing buildings, VSHA has revitalized our communities and downtowns one by one.

The Vermont State Housing Authority has made a lasting difference in the lives of Vermonters across our great State. For that, I thank them. On behalf of all Vermonters, congratulations on 50 years of hard work, dedication, and outstanding commitment to those you serve.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my wife, Marcelle, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the Wayside's 100th anniversary.

I remember when my sister, Mary, brother, John, and I would go with my parents, Howard and Alba Leahy, for a special treat: Sunday after church, we would go to the Wayside for lunch.

I remember my mother speaking Italian with some of the people there, but it was particularly special because of the fact that we would see everybody we knew from Montpelier and Barre, where my father was born.

Even today, I hold those memories from when I was a child, and I have thought of them every time Marcelle and I have brought our children, and now our grandchildren, for lunch at the Wayside. This is one of the institutions that makes Vermont the most special place in our country.

I ask unanimous consent that a press release commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Wayside Restaurant be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Feb. 16, 2018]

2018 MARKS VERMONT'S WAYSIDE RESTAURANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

MONTPELIER.—In 1918, the Allies declared victory in World War 1, Babe Ruth pitched 29½ scoreless innings for the Red Sox in the World Series, Woodrow Wilson was President, color movies were invented, and Effie Ballou opened the Wayside on the Barre-Montpelier Road.

Originally just a roadside eatery, the Wayside Restaurant has withstood the test of time and is ready to celebrate its 100th Anniversary this year! In an industry where 70 percent of all restaurants fail after 10 years, the Wayside has defied the odds.

Throughout the year, there will be meal and dessert specials. In July, the actual month the Wayside opened; there will be a Customer Appreciation Party on July 29th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Wayside Creamery will host a free Ice Cream Social and at sundown all guests will be treated to a special fireworks display! Be sure to save the date.

For those who want to learn more about the Wayside and its long history go to www.WaysideRestaurant.com. There is also a new book on sale at the restaurant commemorating their 100th Anniversary titled, *It's Worth The Ride To The Wayside: Celebrating 100 Years with Anniversary Ale, Yankee Cooking and Ice Cream*. And yes, the book includes several of the Wayside's delicious comfort food recipes!

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent due to a death in my family for rollcall votes Nos. 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55. Had I been present I would have voted nay on all the rollcall votes in relation to S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. I would have also voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kevin McAleenan to be Commissioner

of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, rollcall vote No. 55; PN1373.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY MORTGAGE EXPANSION ACT

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, today I wish to engage in a colloquy to discuss legislation that I introduced, the Housing Opportunity Mortgage Expansion, HOME, Act, with several of my colleagues to address an issue involving the Federal Home Loan Bank, FHLB, system. The FHLB system is a cooperative organization of 11 banks that support a mission of "helping American families realize the dream of home ownership, stimulate the creation of affordable housing, and improve the local business environment." FHLBs are privately capitalized by their 7,300 members and are subject to strict oversight by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA. The HOME Act is designed to correct the FHFA's perceived statutory limitation in the FHL Bank Act that does not permit captive insurers to be considered a class of the eligible insurance companies for membership in FHLBs.

In 2016, the FHFA determined that captive insurance firms were not insurance firms for purposes of the FHLB Act. In making this determination, the FHFA abruptly terminated the membership of approximately four dozen captive insurance entities, including mortgage real estate investment trusts, REITs, that were active and responsible members of the FHLB system. These insurance captives greatly contributed to the affordable housing mission of FHLBs through the use of private capital versus taxpayer dollars, something that we should always encourage. I thank Senators DUCKWORTH, JOHNSON, and BALDWIN for their support of this legislation, which I am hopeful will receive favorable consideration by this body in the future.

I yield to my friend from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, thank you. I thank the chairman and my colleagues from Wisconsin for their support of this bipartisan legislation, which I introduced in January and filed as an amendment to S. 2155. As the chairman stated, as a result of the 2016 regulation, many of the FHLB system's captive insurance members have had or will soon have their membership terminated. Our legislation seeks to ensure that captive insurer affiliates of institutions that are active providers of private capital in the mortgage market are eligible to restore or continue their membership.

Their membership is crucial to reliable access to low-cost funding for home mortgages and affordable housing initiatives in Illinois. For the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, these members serve as an important source of private capital in the mortgage market. Their membership broadens access

to credit to financial institutions that would otherwise not be able to access credit through their local markets and creates a reliable source of liquidity for affordable housing initiatives.

Our bipartisan bill only seeks to address those captives that were previously granted FHLB membership prior to February 19, 2016. By allowing captive insurers to continue to invest in mortgages and mortgage-related securities through the FHLB system, they can continue to provide both credit and liquidity to the market. Such sources of private capital are critical to the long-term financing of the FHLB system, and therefore, eligibility in the system should be preserved. Our legislation will achieve this purpose. I wish to turn to my friend from Wisconsin, Senator JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I agree with the comments of my colleagues on the need to pass S. 2361 during the 115th Congress. The legislation is narrowly tailored such that it would provide the opportunity for reapplication or continuation of FHLB membership only for those captive entities that meet a series of criteria pertaining to the mission of their parent companies to serve the residential mortgage market. These captive members have proven track records of responsible membership, have contributed to the system, and have invested their capital in the respective FHLBs. Moreover, each and every captive that would be affected by our bill are subsidiaries of financial institutions that are aligned with the overall mission of the FHLBs.

I yield to my colleague from Wisconsin, Senator BALDWIN.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, unfortunately, including this legislation in the recently passed S. 2155 was not possible due to a number of procedural objections that could not be overcome. However, it is our understanding that the substance of our bill has the support of several FHLBs, and we intend to work with our colleagues, the administration, and FHFA to find sustainable ways for housing-focused entities such as relevant captive insurance companies to participate in the FHLB system.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on the important topic of women's health, which has been under attack by the Trump administration.

Through its policies and the actions of its officials, the Trump administration has undermined women's health at every opportunity.

In the first year of the Trump administration, we have seen attempts to block access to Planned Parenthood, restrict women's access to birth control, legislation to ban certain medical procedures, the creation of new government offices to undermine women's healthcare, and judges nominated who openly oppose women's privacy rights.

Scott Lloyd, the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR, is the perfect illustration of this deeply disturbing trend.

Federal court documents and extensive media reports show that Mr. Lloyd has used his official office to prevent unaccompanied minors at ORR shelters from accessing legally available reproductive healthcare.

In one case, a 17-year-old young woman, referred to as Jane Doe, was transferred to an ORR shelter after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. While in government custody, Jane Doe discovered she was pregnant and sought access to an abortion. She satisfied all requirements under Texas law and secured her own funds to pay for the procedure. In spite of this, ORR officials repeatedly blocked her from accessing care. Jane Doe went to court and was granted approval to obtain the procedure. Nevertheless, the Trump administration's Department of Justice cruelly appealed the decision, alleging that the government has an interest in blocking her personal decision.

Since Jane Doe's case, it has been uncovered that Trump administration officials have directly intervened in other similar cases. There are reports that Mr. Lloyd has denied young women access to their lawyers. Additionally, he has implemented policies that violate young women's medical privacy rights. It is also concerning that, as someone with no medical expertise or training, Mr. Lloyd has personally pressured young women about their medical options. In court documents, Mr. Lloyd acknowledged that he has never approved a request for the procedure and even admitted that he has denied such requests in the cases of rape victims. This is shocking, particularly considering that many of the young women who come into ORR custody have fled sexual and gender-based violence in their home countries.

On top of that, some of these young women go through harrowing experiences along their journey to the United States, during which they are at risk of being trafficked, kidnapped, and raped. Blocking them from making their own determinations about their health and bodies only adds to the trauma they have already experienced.

In light of Mr. Lloyd's shocking actions, I have called on him to resign.

I find it appalling that the Trump administration believes women—undocumented or otherwise—do not have the right to control their own bodies and make their own healthcare decisions. Young women do not lose their right to make their own healthcare decisions just because they are in government custody.

ORR is responsible for protecting the well-being of the most vulnerable people: those who have been tortured, children who arrive in the country alone and without a parent, and individuals fleeing persecution.

It is imperative that the leader of this office uphold this mission, rather

than advancing his own personal, political agenda. We have an obligation to treat young women in government custody with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The Trump administration needs to stop attacking women and start recognizing their right to control their own bodies, medical decisions, and destiny.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA HOENINGHAUSEN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Tori for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Tori is a native of Yellowstone National Park. She is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where she studied international studies and criminal justice. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tori for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING VALLEY VIEW CHAROLAIS RANCH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations to Valley View Charolais Ranch on their 50th Annual Bull Sale and cowherd. Valley View Charolais have some of the most proven and popular bloodlines available. They have been bred for ease of calving, fertility, milk, and mothering ability, as well as performance. Valley View Charolais Ranch's efforts to produce animals that will make money for all that are involved, including the producer, the cowman, and the packer, have been proven. Their commitment to producing quality 2-year-old bulls despite trends, drought, blizzards, fighting grasshoppers, irrigation water, and cattle price cycles, is remarkable and demonstrates their true dedication.

I commend the Westphal Family for all the dedication and passion they have poured into the industry to be one of the Nation's leading breeders of purebred Charolais cattle and for selling 2-year-old Charolais bulls for 50 years.●

TRIBUTE TO MS. CAROL RIVARD

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and extend my sincerest congratulations and happy

birthday wishes to Ms. Carol Rivard who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 17, 2018.

Carol has lived in New Hampshire since she moved to Salem with her family in 1959. She worked in a textile mill and later as an office clerk for Kmart. After her retirement, Carol dedicated her time to helping a local food pantry where she volunteered every week for nearly 10 years.

To this day, Carol lives independently in her New Hampshire home. Her most cherished moments are spent with loved ones at family gatherings, where they enjoy listening to Frank Sinatra and cheering on the Boston Celtics. Carol has three sons and a daughter, as well as three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

I join with Carol's friends and family, as well as many people in the town of Salem and across the Granite State, in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 ON MARCH 8, 2015—PM 30

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have signed an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017. The Executive Order prohibits, as of its

effective date, all transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in, by a United States person or within the United States, any digital currency, digital coin, or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf of the Government of Venezuela on or after January 9, 2018.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

SOCIAL SECURITY TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT WITH URUGUAY, TITLED "AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY," AND AN ACCOMPANYING LEGALLY BINDING ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT TITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY"—PM 31

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 Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Uruguay, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay," and the accompanying legally binding administrative arrangement, titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed at Montevideo, Uruguay, on January 10, 2017.

The Agreements are similar in objective and content to the social security totalization agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination be-

tween the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and, pursuant to section 233(c)(4), other provisions which I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. Also included are a summary of the main provisions and an annotated version of the Agreements with descriptions of each article. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend to the Congress the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Administrative Arrangement between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 16, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 188. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 324. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4263. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4545. An act to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today,

March 19, 2018, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 188. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 324. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4263. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4545. An act to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 19, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 188. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 324. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

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-4599. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Campanula spp. Plants for Planting in Approved Growing Media From Denmark into the United States" (RIN0579-AE31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4600. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Expiration Date Required for Serial and Subserials and Determination of Expiration Date of Product" (RIN0579-AD06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4601. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aluminum tris (O-ethylphosphonate);

Pesticide Tolerances" (40 CFR Part 180) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4602. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flutianil; Pesticide Tolerances" (40 CFR Part 180) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4603. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "S-Metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances" (40 CFR Part 180) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4604. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4605. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of additional time required to complete a report relative to core depot-level maintenance and repair capability and sustaining workloads; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4606. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); Final Rule" (FRL No. 9975-78-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4607. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Elements of the Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, 2010 Sulfur Dioxide, and 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 9975-71-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4608. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Loss Safe Harbor/RP-119318-17" (Rev. Proc. 2018-08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4609. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hurricanes Harvey & Irma Cost Index Sec. 165/RP-128547-17" (Rev. Proc. 2018-09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4610. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modified 2018 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items" (Rev. Proc. 2018-18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4611. A communication from the Chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4612. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of When Products Made or Derived From Tobacco Are Regulated as Drugs, Devices, or Combination Products; Amendments to Regulations Regarding 'Intended Uses'; Partial Delay of Effective Date" (RIN0910-AH94) (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-2002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4613. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Activities Related to Stillbirth, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, and Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4614. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2017 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4615. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual management report relative to its operations and financial condition for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4616. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to the President of the United States' Fiscal Year 2019 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4617. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Cruise Ship Security Regulations" (RIN1625-AB30) (Docket No. USCG-2006-23846) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4618. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Casualty Reporting Property damage Thresholds" (RIN1625-AC33) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0748) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-184. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the United States Congress to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Only two weeks after Hurricane Irma hit the Island, on September 20th, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico. The eye of this Category 4 hurricane made landfall in the municipality of Yabucoa.

Puerto Rico suffered damages estimated in at least ninety billion dollars (\$90,000,000,000), and a never-before-seen devastation. The power grid as well as the telecommunications and drinking water systems were down. One month after landfall, a mere eighteen percent (18%) of the population had power service, fifty-nine percent (59%) had telecommunications service, and seventy-three percent (73%) had drinking water service.

Many businesses have been unable to operate due to the lack of these services. Consequently, a significant number of employees have lost their jobs or their work hours have been reduced considerably.

Through a contribution based on a percentage of payroll expenses, employers participate in a program where job-seeking unemployed persons are able to receive financial assistance and labor advisory from the Government.

Workers who have been wrongfully discharged may receive the following benefits:

Unemployment compensation equivalent to a percentage of the salary earned up to one hundred thirty-three dollars (\$133.00) a week. Such compensation may be extended for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, if eligible.

Job search assistance through their job center locations.

Furthermore, the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for employed and self-employed persons who have been determined not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. This program provides unemployment benefits to individuals who have become unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster. Just as the unemployment benefit, this assistance is available for twenty-six (26) weeks.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have had a major impact on the economy. Countless Puerto Ricans have lost their jobs, either temporarily or permanently. The lines at the regional offices of the Department of Labor are endless.

Moreover, it has been estimated that more than sixty thousand (60,000) Puerto Ricans have left the Island over the thirty (30) days following Hurricane Maria, forty thousand (40,000) of which have relocated to Florida.

If the U.S. Congress approves the unemployment benefit extension it will greatly contribute to the recovery of the People of Puerto Rico and prevent many others from making the difficult decision of moving from Puerto Rico.

This is not the first time that such a request is made. The U.S. Congress approved a similar extension in 2006 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana and Texas, respectively.

For all of the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico deems it meritorious to request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

Be it Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

Section 2.—It is hereby directed that a copy of this Concurrent Resolution, translated into English, be delivered to the leadership of the Congress of the United States of America, including the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C., the President of the United States of America, and the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-185. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico urging the United States Government to prioritize, increase, and accelerate the recovery, restoration, and reconstruction efforts of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

On September 20, 2017, the people of Puerto Rico experienced one of the most catastrophic events in its history. The onslaught of Hurricane Maria and the devastation it caused not only resulted in the loss of dozens of lives, but also had a disastrous effect on the basic infrastructure, thus disrupting the economic stability and fraying the social fabric of the Island.

Thousands of families deprived of their homes, the loss of industries and jobs, the lack of access to essential medical services, and the lack of reliable means of communication, the difficult access to roadways and communities, and the alarming rate of migration to the mainland are just some of the adverse consequences with which the Island is dealing, while experiencing a serious economic recession that has lasted for over a decade. Almost one and a half months later, thousands of students have been unable to return to their classrooms, hundreds of communities continue without water service, and more than half of the Island still has no power. In short, the Island has essentially fallen into a humanitarian crisis.

Furthermore, the issue caused by the large accumulation of debris that has yet to be removed from the streets and the communities is specifically worth noting. Such debris adversely affects the quality of life of the residents of Puerto Rico. This situation not only constitutes a public safety hazard, but also affects the health of Puerto Ricans, because it promotes the proliferation of pests and mosquito breeding sites due to standing water. According to several experts, as well as the State epidemiologist, we have experienced an increase in the number of Leptospirosis cases and other diseases in many municipalities. In addition, debris affects vehicle traffic, limits accesses, and interferes with recovery efforts.

At this critical time, we are compelled to find effective solutions to protect life and property.

Even though the Government of Puerto Rico, its agencies, instrumentalities, and

municipalities have made a massive effort in an attempt to solve these issues at the state and local level, it is clear that the restoration and reconstruction of Puerto Rico is a Herculean task that we could not undertake without the intervention of the Federal Government. Now more than ever, the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico require Federal assistance to set in motion their recovery.

We recognize that the concerned agencies and the different federal officials have expressed their unwavering commitment to the recovery and reconstruction of Puerto Rico. The truth is, however, that the pace at which works are being carried out is at odds with the needs of the People of Puerto Rico.

Indeed, on many occasions, local authorities have been compelled to raise a red flag about the adverse effects that the slow pace at which the works contracted with federal entities are being carried out could have. Several mayors of both political parties have resorted to the Executive Branch to increase the resources allocated to debris recovery and the overall reconstruction and recovery efforts being carried out in Puerto Rico. In some instances, the municipal executives have taken on the task to petition the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directly and have been successful in arriving at agreements for the recovery of demolition and vegetative debris. However, some of these municipal executives have expressed that despite entering into these agreements, the demolition and vegetative debris recovery efforts have yet to begin. Likewise, it was reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been slow to contract the resources necessary to restore the power grid of the Island as well as to install reinforced blue plastic sheeting to protect the property of those residents who have lost their roofs.

Once again, we stress that allocating resources, establishing long-term plans, and claiming that essential services shall be restored eventually is not enough. The U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico deserve and warrant that their needs be addressed with the same promptness and urgency with which the needs of our fellow citizens have been addressed under similar circumstances. It is not out of sheer convenience that we make this claim, but rather it is based on the most basic rights that the residents of Puerto Rico are entitled to enjoy.

In light of the foregoing, and with the utmost sense of urgency given the critical time that the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico are living in, we deemed it necessary to emphatically demand from the Government of the United States of America that the pace with which the recovery and reconstruction works are being carried out in Puerto Rico is increased and accelerated. Time is of the essence.

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To demand from the Government of the United States of America that they prioritize, increase, and accelerate the recovery, restoration, and reconstruction efforts of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

Section 2.—As part of the efforts, the President shall direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the debris removal efforts in the municipalities of Puerto Rico and reestablish the power grid of the Island, among other matters, including specific instructions on the recovery works that Puerto Rico needs and a work schedule.

Section 3.—A copy of this Concurrent Resolution, translated into English, shall be delivered to the President of the United States, Donald Trump; the Vice President of the United States and President of the United States Senate, Michael Pence; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Paul Ryan; and the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell.

Section 4.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 526. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 791. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1538. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish awareness of, and technical assistance for, the creation of employee stock ownership plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1961. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment:

S. 1995. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the number of small business investment companies in underlicensed States, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2283. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2419. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the technical and business assistance services under the SBIR and STTR programs.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 2527. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies.

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. BROWN:

S. 2567. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2568. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2569. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to benefit the Appalachia region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2570. A bill to repeal the funding authorization sunset and the total funding cap for the Essex National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2571. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 437. A resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 438. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the University of California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 439. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 109

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 281, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the

Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 526

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

S. 528

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 781

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 781, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1016, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1022, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate assignment of military trauma care providers to civilian trauma centers in order to maintain military trauma readiness and to support such centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1091

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1152

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1152, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1158

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1158, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1161

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventative health services, and for other purposes.

S. 1276

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components.

S. 1520

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1520, a bill to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2135, a bill to enforce current law regarding the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

S. 2155

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2155, a bill to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2245

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2245, a bill to include New Zealand in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 non-immigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of New Zealand.

S. 2271

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2271, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2283, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2334, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide clarity with respect to, and to modernize, the licensing system for musical works under section 115 of that title, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of that title, and for other purposes.

S. 2383

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2383, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve law enforcement access to data stored across borders, and for other purposes.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2421

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2421, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

S. 2495

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2495, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for school security in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

S. 2524

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2524, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for substance use disorder treatment employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2529

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the applicable percentage under the premium assistance tax credit for households with young adults.

S. 2553

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2553, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans and pharmacy benefit managers from restricting pharmacies from informing individuals regarding the prices for certain drugs and biologicals.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to promulgate regulations to prohibit the storage of live animals in overhead compartments of airplanes.

S. 2564

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2564, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to promote the investigation of fraudulent claims against certain trusts, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties against fraudulent claims against certain trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2565

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain training or vocational rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 54

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 424

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 424, a resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 432, a resolution congratulating the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the

100th anniversary of their declarations of independence.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2571. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am proud to once again join with Senator COLLINS to introduce the bipartisan Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. Senator COLLINS and I have championed this effort together for years now, and I thank her for her thoughtful and steadfast advocacy and constructive contribution throughout our efforts. Our bill will extend for five years key programs authorized by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and expand and improve the programs and services that are vital—and sometimes life-saving—resources and safe havens for at risk youth in our home states and across the country.

Runaway and homeless youth are significantly more likely to become victims of sexual abuse and trafficking. Our bill ensures that service providers, who are the bedrock of the support system for runaway and homeless youth, have the information, training, and resources they need to identify and serve youth that have been victims of trauma. This includes connecting the youth with appropriate additional services to ensure their physical and mental health and safety.

The bill reauthorizes and expands programs and guidance that help providers reunify youth with their families and loved ones, or, if not possible, provide a tailored and comprehensive support system to help them get back on their feet or on a path to self-sufficiency. The spectrum of support services include emergency and transitional housing—because the first step is having a safe place to stay. They also include training and counseling relating to physical and mental health care, financial literacy, and workforce training. Runaway and Homeless Youth providers are there for the youth every step of the way, supporting them and connecting them to their community and to available resources. Our reauthorization adds completion of the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) form to the available assistance to help youth who wish to pursue advanced educational opportunities realize their goals.

Finally, our bill ensures that no child can be discriminated against in trying to gain access to access services or housing through Runaway and Homeless Youth programs. It is unconscionable to turn away any child in need—gay, straight, black or white. These are our Nation's most vulnerable youth and they must all feel welcome. In

many cases, Runaway and Homeless Youth programs can be a last resort. We cannot let one child fall through the cracks in our support system.

In Vermont alone, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs served 500 young people in need of housing supports in Fiscal Year 2017. Vermont is the seventh most expensive State to live in for rural areas, and ranks within the top five States for the largest shortfall between housing wage and renter wage. As youth and families struggle to make ends meet in Vermont and across the Nation, these programs and support systems are more important than ever. We must invest the resources to ensure our youth have a safe place to go and the resources they need to become self-sufficient.

Senator COLLINS and I know just how dangerous and unpredictable the weather can be in the Northeast. In fact, we are getting hit with yet another nor'easter complete with fresh snow this week. No child in either of our states, or anywhere in the United States, should have to call the street home. The bill we are introducing today will help ensure our nation's children have a safe place to stay and have the support they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 437

Whereas $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population of the world is infected with the tuberculosis bacterium (commonly referred to as "TB");

Whereas the World Health Organization (commonly referred to as the "WHO") estimates that 10,400,000 people were newly infected with TB in 2016, 10 percent of whom were also infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (commonly referred to as "HIV");

Whereas, in 2016, TB killed an estimated 1,700,000 people, causing more deaths worldwide than any other single infectious agent;

Whereas more than 80 percent of TB deaths among HIV-negative people in 2016 occurred in Africa and Southeast Asia, and India accounted for 33 percent of global HIV-negative TB deaths;

Whereas TB is a leading killer of people infected with HIV, and 400,000 people with HIV died of TB in 2016;

Whereas additional vulnerable populations at high risk for developing TB include pregnant women and newborns;

Whereas TB is 1 of the 5 leading causes of death among adult women between the ages of 20 and 59 in low-income countries, and women with TB can face stigma, discrimination, and in some settings ostracization by their families and communities;

Whereas the global TB epidemic and the spread of drug-resistant TB present a persistent public health threat to the United

States because the disease does not recognize borders;

Whereas antibiotic-resistant pathogens are a growing problem worldwide, and drug-resistant TB can occur when the drugs used to treat TB are misused or mismanaged;

Whereas studies have demonstrated direct person-to-person transmission of drug-resistant TB;

Whereas multi-drug resistant TB (commonly referred to as “MDR-TB”) is caused by bacteria with resistance to rifampin and isoniazid, the 2 most potent treatments for TB infection;

Whereas, according to the 2017 WHO Global Tuberculosis Report, in 2016 an estimated 4.1 percent of all new TB cases and 19 percent of previously treated cases were MDR-TB or rifampin-resistant TB;

Whereas, in 2016, an estimated 600,000 people around the world developed MDR-TB or rifampin-resistant TB and those drug-resistant strains caused approximately 240,000 deaths worldwide;

Whereas extensively drug-resistant TB (commonly referred to as “XDR-TB”) is a rare type of TB that is resistant to nearly all medicines, and therefore can be very difficult and expensive to treat, especially among patients with HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly referred to as “AIDS”);

Whereas, according to the 2017 WHO Global Tuberculosis Report, in 2015, 123 countries reported at least 1 case of XDR-TB;

Whereas, in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that the cost of treating a single patient with MDR-TB in the United States averaged \$160,000, and the average cost of treating a patient with XDR-TB was even higher at \$513,000, compared with \$18,000 to treat a patient with drug-susceptible TB;

Whereas MDR-TB and XDR-TB cases in the United States between 2005 and 2007 collectively cost the health care system an estimated \$53,000,000, according to an analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas, in a 2000 report, the Institute of Medicine found that a decrease in TB control funding and the spread of HIV and AIDS caused a resurgence of TB in the late 1980s and early 1990s;

Whereas a total of 9,272 TB cases were reported in the United States in 2016, representing all 50 States and the District of Columbia, and up to 13,000,000 people in the United States may be living with latent TB infection;

Whereas 75 percent of States have reported an increase in the proportion of complex cases of TB in recent years due to factors such as homelessness, HIV infection, drug resistance, substance abuse, refugee status, and other factors;

Whereas the rate of TB disease in African Americans is 8 times higher than the rate in white non-Hispanic Americans, and significant disparities exist among other minorities in the United States, including Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans, with 86 percent of all reported TB cases in the United States in 2016 occurring in racial or ethnic minorities;

Whereas, globally in 2016, an estimated 1,000,000 children developed TB and 250,000 children died of TB;

Whereas smoking greatly increases the risk of death from TB, and more than 20 percent of TB cases worldwide may be attributable to smoking;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for TB, and people with diabetes are more likely to develop TB and have a higher risk of death due to TB;

Whereas bedaquiline is an antibiotic that boosts an MDR-TB patient's chance of survival from approximately 50 percent to as much as 80 percent, and through a public-private partnership, the United States Agency for International Development (commonly referred to as “USAID”) assists more than 8,000 patients in almost 40 countries in accessing this new medication;

Whereas Bacillus Calmette-Guerin, a TB vaccine that is known as “BCG”, provides some protection to children but has had little epidemiologic impact on TB worldwide;

Whereas there is a critical need for new drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for controlling the global TB epidemic;

Whereas the WHO has called for “global solidarity and action” to support a 20-year strategy to end the global TB epidemic;

Whereas the enactment of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918), and the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-392; 122 Stat. 4195) provided a historic United States commitment to the global eradication of TB, including a commitment to treat 4,500,000 TB patients and 90,000 MDR-TB patients between 2009 and 2013 and to provide additional treatment through coordinated multilateral efforts;

Whereas USAID provides financial and technical assistance to 23 countries highly burdened by TB, helps to support the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools, and is authorized to support research to develop new vaccines to combat TB;

Whereas TB incidence in the countries that receive bilateral TB funding from the United States through USAID has decreased by nearly ½ since 2000;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, partnering with other entities of the United States and individual States and territories, directs the national TB elimination program, coordinates TB surveillance, technical assistance, and prevention activities, and helps to support the development of new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools to combat TB;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health, through its many institutes and centers, plays the leading role in basic and clinical research on the identification, treatment, and prevention of TB;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (commonly referred to as the “Global Fund”), to which the United States is a top financial donor, provides more than 65 percent of all international financing for TB programs;

Whereas, to date, Global Fund-supported programs have detected and treated 17,400,000 cases of TB; and

Whereas March 24, 2018, is World Tuberculosis Day, a day that commemorates the date in 1882 on which Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes TB: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis;

(2) commends the progress of tuberculosis bacteria elimination efforts by entities that include the Interagency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training, the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the United States leadership and effec-

tiveness of the global response to tuberculosis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 438

Whereas Congress enacted the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the “First Morrill Act”) (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), to allow for the establishment of land-grant colleges offering programs teaching agriculture and the mechanic arts;

Whereas on March 23, 1868, the State of California enacted the Organic Act, which—

(1) established the University of California (referred to in this preamble as the “University”); and

(2) entrusted the organization and government of the University to a corporate body entitled the Regents of the University;

Whereas in 1869 the University opened in Oakland, California, and had an inaugural class of 40 students and 10 faculty members;

Whereas, since 1869, the University has grown to include a total of 10 campuses in the following cities: San Francisco; Berkeley; Davis; Los Angeles; Santa Barbara; Riverside; San Diego; Santa Cruz; Irvine; and Merced;

Whereas, as of 2018, the University has more than 273,000 enrolled students and employs more than 223,300 faculty, staff, and other academics;

Whereas the University has graduated more than 2,000,000 living alumni;

Whereas in 1870 the University decreed that the University would admit women and men equally;

Whereas the University has 5 academic medical centers, which include 6 medical schools, 12 public hospitals, and 18 health professional schools;

Whereas the University is affiliated with—

(1) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, since 1931;

(2) Los Alamos National Laboratory, since 1943; and

(3) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, since 1952;

Whereas these 3 national laboratories are—

(1) working to create advanced new tools for scientific discovery;

(2) enabling transformational solutions for health and the environment;

(3) enhancing the defense of the United States while reducing the global threat from terrorism; and

(4) addressing other emerging national security and energy challenges;

Whereas, due to the commitment of the University to diversity and to providing access to higher education to all qualified students in the State of California, the University currently enrolls the highest number of resident undergraduates in the history of the University;

Whereas the faculty of the University is internationally renowned for scholarly and scientific achievements, and has helped maintain the prestige and quality of education of the University during decades of social and technological change;

Whereas in 1939 University professor E. O. Lawrence received the first Nobel Prize of the University for inventing the cyclotron;

Whereas 61 faculty members associated with the University have won Nobel Prizes;

Whereas the faculty and alumni of the University include hundreds of MacArthur “Genius” grant winners, Pulitzer Prize winners,

Fulbright Award recipients, National Medal of Science winners, prominent policy makers, athletes, and thespians;

Whereas the University established the fields of nuclear physics and biotechnology, revolutionized agriculture, and helped the movie industry mature;

Whereas the University, through faculty and alumni, continues to drive technological innovation and actively partners with private industry; and

Whereas the University continues to address the most pressing issues in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of California (referred to in this resolving clause as the “University”) on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the 150 years of history, legacy, and achievements of the University;

(3) recognizes the achievements of all of the administrators, professors, students, and staff members who have contributed to the success of the University;

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring access to a quality and affordable higher education across the United States; and

(5) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University; and

(B) the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution that honors one of the most venerable institutions in our State: the University of California.

The resolution before us commemorates the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of California, a noteworthy milestone that must be celebrated by recognizing all of the achievements. I would like to thank my dear friend, Senator HARRIS, for joining me and supporting this endeavor.

Throughout its history, the University of California has become a foundation, and a beacon of hope, for the State of California and the Nation as a whole. It embraces the same spirit and tenacity that defines our great State.

The University of California has grown from one campus in Berkeley to a system of 10 top-ranked universities, five notable and top-notch academic medical centers, and three affiliated National Laboratories, all impacting far reaches of the State.

We should recognize the University of California for what it is: the finest and most accessible public university system in this country. It was established on the premise that college is for everyone and designed with every Californian in mind. That is why the University of California's Board of Regents in 1870 decreed that women be admitted equally with men, 50 years before the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

Diversity has always been a cornerstone of the University of California. Because of its progressive and forward-thinking ways, notable alumni include Jackie Robinson, who shattered the Major League Baseball's color barrier;

Sally Ride, the first American woman in space; and the countless number of students and faculty members who are the first generation in their families to attend college.

Today, the University of California has more than 273,000 enrolled students and employs more than 223,300 faculty, staff, and other academics. It has graduated more than two million living alumni.

The University of California is also a national leader in scientific discovery and medical advancement, enabling transformational solutions for healthcare and the environment, enhancing our Nation's defense while reducing the global threat from terrorism, and addressing other emerging national security and energy challenges. It established itself in the fields of nuclear physics and biotechnology, revolutionized agriculture, and helped the movie industry mature, all of which are now multi-billion-dollar industries. Through its faculty and alumni, the University continues to drive technological innovation and actively partner with the private sector.

Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I would like to end with a small anecdote. Every year in our household, we always look forward to the “Big Game.” For the uninitiated, this is the biggest college football game of the year: the Stanford Cardinal versus the California Golden Bears. This is the oldest college football rivalry in the West, which began in 1892, and still continues to this day. I do not hold it against those who attended Berkeley, but I will be happy to gloat when my Cardinal beat the Bears. I am not one to boast, but it must be noted that Stanford has won more “Big Games” than Berkeley.

All quips aside, as we commemorate this momentous occasion in the storied history that is the University of California, we must remember the past and present, with an eye towards the future. The challenges before it are great, but the potential that lies within itself is even greater. I know and believe that the University of California will continue to push boundaries, explore the great unknown, stand up for American values, and continue to solve the world's most complex problems. Here is to another exceptional 150 years.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 439

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact individ-

uals of all ages, races, and ethnicities, but MS is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 individuals worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling to vision problems and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any 1 person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas, while there is no evidence that MS is directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and environmental factors that give certain individuals a higher risk of developing MS;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is unknown, and there is no cure for MS;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life of individuals affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation and to provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the MS community;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society was a founding member of the International Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers and, as of 2018, includes 17 MS organizations from 17 countries, 9 foundation and trust members, and 7 pharmaceutical partners;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March each year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are—

(1) to invite people to join the movement to end MS;

(2) to encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of MS; and

(3) to acknowledge those who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas, in 2018, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 11 through March 17: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations—

(A) to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; and

(B) to help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of

the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(6) recognizes all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement for those individuals; and

(8) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways—

(i) to stop multiple sclerosis;

(ii) to restore what has been lost due to multiple sclerosis; and

(iii) to end multiple sclerosis forever.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2212. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1865, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2213. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1865, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2214. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3731, to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2212. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1865, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EFFECT ON LIABILITY OF EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, RESTRICT ACCESS TO, OR REMOVE OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) EFFECT OF EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, RESTRICT ACCESS TO, OR REMOVE OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL.—

“(A) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LIABILITY GENERALLY.—The fact that a provider or user of an interactive computer service has undertaken any efforts (including monitoring and filtering) to identify, restrict access to, or remove material the provider or user considers objectionable shall not be con-

sidered in determining the criminal or civil liability of the provider or user for any material that the provider or user has not removed or restricted access to.

“(B) EFFECT ON PROTECTIONS.—The protections under paragraphs (1) and (2) are not limited by or contingent upon an interactive computer service provider’s—

“(i) moderation of content; or

“(ii) use of particular content moderation practices.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply regardless of whether the conduct alleged occurred, or is alleged to have occurred, before, on, or after such date of enactment.

SA 2213. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1865, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROTECTING SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FROM CRIMINAL WEBSITES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Protecting Sex Trafficking Victims from Criminal Websites Act”.

(b) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—Out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Attorney General, for use in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to investigate and prosecute website operators that criminally facilitate sex trafficking or the sexual exploitation of children.

(c) AVAILABLE UNTIL EXPENDED.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (b) shall remain available until expended.

(d) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

SA 2214. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3731, to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, 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 “Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF OVERTIME PAY EXCEPTION THROUGH 2018 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “IN 2016” and inserting “DURING 2016 THROUGH 2018”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “2016” and inserting “2016, 2017, or 2018”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, and only to the extent that an appropriation is provided specifically in an appropriations Act for premium pay in excess of the annual equivalent of the limitation on the rate of pay contained in section 5547(a), any covered employee may receive premium pay during 2016, 2017, and 2018, to the extent provided under section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note).”.

(2) CLARIFYING PROVISION.—Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting “or 3056A” after “section 3056(a)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2016.

(c) REPORT ON EXTENSIONS.—Not later than January 30, 2018, and January 30, 2019, the Director of the Secret Service shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the effects of the amendment made by subsection (a)(2). The report shall include, with respect to the previous calendar year—

(1) the total number of United States Secret Service personnel receiving premium pay above the premium pay limitation in subsection (a) of section 5547 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the total amount of premium pay for that calendar year paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection;

(3) the mean and median amount of premium pay paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection;

(4) the greatest amount paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection and the number of employees who received that amount;

(5) notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (a), the total number of United States Secret Service personnel who were not fully compensated for service because of the premium pay earnings limitation in section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note);

(6) the total amount of premium pay United States Secret Service personnel would have been paid but for the premium pay earnings limitation in such section; and

(7) a list of United States Secret Service personnel who, within the calendar year, received premium pay above the premium pay limitation in subsection (a) of section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, and separated from the agency, including the type of separation in each case.

SEC. 3. REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate,

the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the extent of the progress made by the United States Secret Service in implementing the recommendations of the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel, including in particular those items pertaining to training and personnel enumerated in the Executive Summary to Report from the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel to the Secretary of Homeland Security dated December 15, 2014.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and Public Law 106-292, appoints the following Senator to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: the Honorable JOE MANCHIN III of West Virginia, from the Committee on Appropriations.

SECRET SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3731 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. 3731) to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, 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 Grassley substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2214) 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 "Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF OVERTIME PAY EXCEPTION THROUGH 2018 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking "IN 2016" and inserting "DURING 2016 THROUGH 2018";

(B) in subsection (a), by striking "2016" and inserting "2016, 2017, or 2018"; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, and only to the extent that an appropriation is provided specifically in an appropriations Act for premium pay in excess of the annual equivalent of the limitation on the rate of pay contained in section 5547(a), any covered employee may receive premium pay during 2016, 2017, and 2018, to the extent provided under section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note)."

(2) CLARIFYING PROVISION.—Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting "or 3056A" after "section 3056(a)".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2016.

(c) REPORT ON EXTENSIONS.—Not later than January 30, 2018, and January 30, 2019, the Director of the Secret Service shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the effects of the amendment made by subsection (a)(2). The report shall include, with respect to the previous calendar year—

(1) the total number of United States Secret Service personnel receiving premium pay above the premium pay limitation in subsection (a) of section 5547 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the total amount of premium pay for that calendar year paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection;

(3) the mean and median amount of premium pay paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection;

(4) the greatest amount paid to United States Secret Service personnel above the premium pay limitation in such subsection and the number of employees who received that amount;

(5) notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (a), the total number of United States Secret Service personnel who were not fully compensated for service because of the premium pay earnings limitation in section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note);

(6) the total amount of premium pay United States Secret Service personnel would have been paid but for the premium pay earnings limitation in such section; and

(7) a list of United States Secret Service personnel who, within the calendar year, received premium pay above the premium pay limitation in subsection (a) of section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, and separated from the agency, including the type of separation in each case.

SEC. 3. REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the extent of the progress made by the United States Secret Service in im-

plementing the recommendations of the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel, including in particular those items pertaining to training and personnel enumerated in the Executive Summary to Report from the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel to the Secretary of Homeland Security dated December 15, 2014.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H. R. 3731), as amended, was passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 20; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1865. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

AIMEE KATHRYN JORJANI, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2021. VICE MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ELIZABETH DARLING, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RAFAEL J. LOPEZ.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOSEPH N. MONDELLO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARK SCHULTZ, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE JANET LORRAINE LABRECK.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

EDWARD W. FELTEN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2019. VICE PATRICIA M. WARD, RETIRED. JANE NITZEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2023. VICE RACHEL L. BRAND, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

TIA W. CAPHART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

NAPOLEON A. CAMPOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KEVIN R. EMBRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANDREW J. FURJANIC

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

DANIEL L. LEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JOHN M. WILLIAMS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 19, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NAZAKHTAR NIKAKHTAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

KEVIN K. MCALEENAN, OF HAWAII, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOANNE POWELL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a staple of the San Angelo community and an invaluable asset on my team, Mrs. JoAnne Powell. Later this week, she'll be honored as the 2017 Special Friends of Conservation by the Tom Green Soil & Water Conservation Board.

JoAnne has assisted constituents in the Concho Valley throughout my entire tenure, a service that started in 1984 while working for then Rep. Tom Loeffler and eventually Rep. Lamar Smith. Since then, JoAnne has tirelessly worked with constituents on issues they may be experiencing with federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, the VA, and the NRCS. The relationships JoAnne has built with these agencies have led to thousands of these cases being resolved for these constituents.

JoAnne also serves as coordinator for our annual service academy application nominations, which is a year-round process for her. With JoAnne's assistance, many of the young men and women in our district go on to serve our nation and attend one of our distinguished service academies.

Through her big heart and drive to serve Tom Green County, JoAnne works closely with many agriculture groups that support West Texas. Her compassion and dedication has made her a special member of my team.

I congratulate JoAnne, and cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this year's Special Friends of Conservation Award.

HONORING THE WARTBURG
COLLEGE WRESTLING TEAM

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wartburg College wrestling team for winning this year's NCAA Division III National Championship. Wartburg College is located in Waverly, Iowa and this is their third-straight title out of the fourteen they have won in NCAA National Championship history.

These young men have sacrificed much of their lives to hold this title—spending more time in the gym and more time practicing to continue improving. Through their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice, they have made their family, friends, Wartburg College, and northeast Iowa proud.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Wartburg College wrestling team, Coach Keller, Coach Ortner, and the Wartburg College community, on their well-deserved championship.

Go Knights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for roll call votes on March 15, 2018 as I had to return to California to attend a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "YES" on Roll Call Vote No. 109, "YES" on Roll Call Vote No. 110, "YES" on Roll Call Vote No. 111, "YES" on Roll Call Vote No. 112, "NO" on Roll Call Vote No. 113, and "NO" on Roll Call Vote No. 114.

HONORING AMBASSADOR MARCH
FONG EU

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long, full life of a political trailblazer, the Honorable March Fong Eu. After more than thirty years in public service, March Fong Eu leaves behind a legacy of respected leadership and broken barriers. Her success opened doors for immigrants and women throughout the state of California.

A daughter of Chinese immigrants, her desire for equality can be traced back to her time in high school, when a school counselor discouraged her from pursuing a career in the sciences because she believed her Chinese ancestry would prevent anyone from hiring her. She was not deterred and she pursued education to the highest levels. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, she received her master's degree in education at Mills College. She then received a doctorate in education from Stanford University in 1954.

Ambassador Fong Eu built a career that paved the way for women and Asian Americans who followed her. She first became interested in politics while serving as the first female president of the American Dental Hygienists Association from 1944 to 1947. Years later, she entered the world of politics as the first female Asian American to be elected to the Alameda County Board of Education, where she served from 1961 to 1966. She was also the first Asian American woman to be elected to the California State Assembly, where she represented the 15th District for four terms from 1966 to 1974.

In 1974, she became the first female California Secretary of State, and the first Asian American to be elected to a California constitutional office. At the time, she was the re-

cipient of the highest vote total for a statewide elected office, and won reelection to four more terms. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed her as U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ambassador Fong Eu believed everyone should be treated equally regardless of their gender or ethnicity, and her accomplishments while in office reflect those beliefs. One of her most important campaigns was the successful ban on pay toilets in public buildings. She argued that while men's urinals were free, women were treated as second-class citizens because they were being unfairly charged for the use of public bathrooms. While serving as Secretary of State, she championed voting rights and dramatically expanded access to voting by implementing voter registration by mail, absentee ballots upon request, and allowing voters to register at the Department of Motor Vehicles and other state agencies.

She is an inspiration and role model for all Californians. As more women and minorities are elected to public office, March Fong Eu's legacy will carry on as they continue the fight for equality and justice.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
PIKEVILLE POLICE OFFICER
SCOTTY HAMILTON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is with great heaviness of heart that I and all of Kentucky mourn the tragic and untimely death of Officer Scotty Hamilton, a 12-year veteran of the Pikeville Police Department.

Eastern Kentucky lost one of its bravest sons on March 13, 2018 when Officer Hamilton paid the ultimate sacrifice while valiantly serving and protecting the community he loved. Since joining the police force in 2006, Officer Hamilton served with immense integrity, earning the utmost respect of his colleagues and courageously giving his all to the City of Pikeville.

In 2013, Officer Hamilton was honored as the Pikeville Police Department's very first Officer of the Year. It was an accolade he rightfully earned as one of the Police Chief's "right hand men"—a dependable and exemplary officer.

Outside of the police force, Scotty Hamilton loved living in the Appalachian Mountains and could often be found hunting and trail-riding with his family and friends. It was perhaps the great pride he had for his hometown that drove his desire to serve and protect the people who live there. In fact, he volunteered for numerous assignments and charity events to give back as much as he could.

The value of our rural law enforcement professionals, like Officer Hamilton, is immeasurable. Holding to their core principles of duty and sacrifice with unwavering dedication, our

• 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.

police officers never fail to respond, regardless of the unknown dangers and threats that arise.

I'm reminded of the true definition of love in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." What a legacy of love, bravery and sacrifice Officer Hamilton leaves to inspire our nation.

My wife, Cynthia, and I extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Officer Hamilton's wife, daughter, parents and his extended family, including his brothers and sisters in blue at the Pikeville Police Department. Let us remember Officer Scotty Hamilton as a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING CONSERVATION BEYOND BORDERS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Conservation Beyond Borders and their tireless work to eradicate the illegal poaching of Rhinoceros' and the subsequent trafficking of their horns which are used to fund illicit activities. This form of wildlife terrorism promotes the trafficking of humans, arms, and narcotics as well as other illegal activities around the world.

As a University of Minnesota graduate and wildlife biologist, Nicole Benjamin-Fink serves as the Director of Conservation Beyond Borders and has spent countless hours working to identify the illegal trade of wildlife by global operative networks whose goal is to utilize endangered animals, like the rhinoceros, as trade commodities. Through the creation of Conservation Beyond Borders, Nicole has raised awareness and promoted cross-cultural conservation around the world.

Like Conservation Beyond Borders, I too believe in the importance of identifying the causes and impact of wildlife terrorism. I am honored to recognize outstanding Minnesotans like Nicole for their efforts to preserve our wildlife and end the criminal financing of terrorism.

I commend Conservation Beyond Borders for their efforts to conduct comprehensive research on these criminal networks and for attempting to ensure that all wildlife have the opportunity to flourish in their native homelands.

RECOGNIZING TWO EXEMPLARY OREGONIANS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friends, and two exemplary Oregonians who have dedicated their lives to service of their community and country. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Les Cochenour and his wife, Jody, are stalwart citizens of The Dalles, Oregon—my birthplace—who will be relocating from their treasured home in the Columbia Gorge to start a new chapter in their lives in Bend.

Before Les and Jody's new chapter begins, though, I would be remiss if I did not provide a brief account of their impactful chapters written in Wasco County.

Like me, both Les and Jody were raised in The Dalles. They are both proud alumni of The Dalles High School—high school sweethearts who graduated one year apart from each other and married just a few short months after Jody graduated. The foundation of their 56-year-long marriage began in high school, and so did the start of an inseparable duo of public servants.

Les entered the local National Guard Unit as a private straight out of high school. With a work ethic acquired at a young age on his farm in Dallesport, Les soon went on to officer candidate school and became a second lieutenant.

After more than two decades in the National Guard, Les joined the Army reserve, where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and retired after another decade of service. Les' military record spans 31 years with the Army reserves, and 42 years as a military officer.

Just as his military service was winding down, Les' community service in The Dalles was just beginning. Les served as Mayor of The Dalles for two terms from 1990–1994. His leadership qualities and dedication to his constituents, including the planning of the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, earned him the position of President of the Oregon Mayor's Association in 1994.

A veteran himself, Les made it a top priority in his life to serve his fellow service men and women. He served on the board of the Oregon Veterans' Home for five years, dedicating his time to providing veterans and their families with a place to seek care, rehabilitation, and a roof over their heads.

Les is a founding member of the Mid-Columbia Veteran's Memorial Committee, providing another venue for service to his fellow veterans. All the while, Les has had a partner in this admirable endeavor of service to those who have served our country: his wife, Jody.

Jody, also a public servant who worked for the state in the Building Codes Division, is a board member of Mid-Columbia Veterans and a lifetime member of The Dalles Veterans of Foreign War Auxillary. A trailblazer of her own right, Jody launched the Red Crested Purple Breasted Cronies, a chapter of the National Red Hat Society that donates to a charity of their choosing each month.

Les and Jody have not been without recognition for their unique history of devoted service to others. Les has been honored with the bronze medallion of the Order of St. George from the U.S. Calvary and Armor Association, a prestigious honor that recognizes the long and honorable service to cavalry and armor, and recognizes the very best cavalryman.

Jody was awarded the Order of St. Joan D'Arc, an equally prestigious recognition for a spouse with "significant voluntary contributions to the morale, spirit and welfare of the armor and cavalry communities."

Suffice to say, today will be just one of many accounts of Les and Jody Cochenour's service to their fellow citizens in The Dalles, and people across America. While their address may change, I know that their commitment to our state and country will not.

Their home will always be in The Dalles, and their legacy of service to others will cer-

tainly be passed along to their five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and I imagine it will only be a matter of time before their impact will be profoundly felt by the community in Bend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the whole House of Representatives and the people of The Dalles, please join me in expressing our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Les and Jody Cochenour for their lifelong dedication to community and country.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE THOMAS PATTERSON "PATT" MANEY

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to a local hero who has dedicated his life to humble service; service to his country, service to others, and service to the bench. One can get a slight understanding of the impact he's had on the lives of others by some of the powerful testimonies his colleagues will give about the man and his work, such as, "you will not find a more forceful advocate for justice" and "he is an irreplaceable asset to Okaloosa County."

The history of the life and work of Judge T. Patterson Maney is nothing short of astounding.

In 1974, he was admitted to the Bars of Kentucky and Florida and after a year of practice in Kentucky, moved to Okaloosa County where he established a general practice. He was appointed Okaloosa County Court Judge by Governor Bob Martinez and took the bench on June 5, 1989.

Brigadier General Maney's military service and experience played an intricate role in shaping his service on the bench. He served in the Army Reserve for almost 37 years in positions of increasing responsibility retiring as a brigadier general in 2007. During his reserve service, he was deployed to Panama, Haiti, Bosnia and Afghanistan for contingency operations. He commanded a reserve civil affairs brigade in Maryland as well as the 350 Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola and later served as the deputy commander of the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and deputy commandant of the John F. Kennedy Special Operations School (Airborne) at Fort Bragg. In Bosnia, he served as the special assistant to the chief of staff and later as acting chief of staff of the Office of the High Representative, an international organization created to implement the Dayton Peace Accord. He played a key role in freedom of movement issues and security of meetings of the Bosnian tripartite Presidency and the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Sarajevo in April 1997. Later, in Afghanistan for 17 months, he served the U.S. Ambassador as senior advisor for the political sector with the status of attaché. In that role, he coordinated with the office of the presidency, various ministers including the Ministers of Justice and the Supreme Court, and the Joint Election Monitoring Commission.

In 2005, Brigadier General Maney was severely injured by a blast in Afghanistan and spent nearly 2 years recovering from those injuries. Brigadier General Maney returned triumphantly to the bench in May 2007. He has

since been a staunch champion for veterans, mental health, and civil rights.

Judge Maney's personal experience as a wounded warrior helped inspire him to create a Veterans Court in 2010 that, since then, has helped veterans dealing with issues related to their military service avoid getting caught up in the legal system.

His advocacy and support of mental health has also been a cornerstone of his career. Judge Maney started the Okaloosa Mental Health Court and has been appointed three times to the Supreme Court's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, where he advocated for passage of a veterans treatment court bill and for a revision of Florida's mental health laws. The Veterans Treatment Court Act was named for him, a singular honor for a county court judge. Because of his service as the Okaloosa judge supervising Baker/Marchman Act cases, he served on the statutory "Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council", 2010 to 2014. He also served on the statutory "Florida Defense Support Task Force", 2011 to 2015 where he successfully pushed for the passage of a veterans treatment court law. As a judge who fulfilled statutory duties as head of the election canvassing board, he successfully supported two amendments to Florida election law to protect the voting and privacy rights of military service members.

Patt Maney's guidance and expertise has been and will continue to be an invaluable asset to Northwest Florida. His determination and selfless service are an inspiration to all who are blessed to know and work with him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize and honor Judge Maney for his countless contributions and accomplishments. I'd like to extend my gratitude to him for all that he has done for his country and community. As he will be retiring his gavel soon, I would like it included in the RECORD of the United States Congress, that there is absolutely no doubt that Judge T. Patterson Maney has served fairly, patiently, and followed the law.

IN RECOGNITION OF FONA'S WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it's not every day that long-term sustained excellence can be duly recognized.

FONA International of Geneva, Illinois, provides just such an opportunity, however. I am privileged to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to Joe Slawek and the employees of FONA International for being named a National Best & Brightest Company to Work For by the National Association of Business Resources—for the seventh year in a row.

FONA International creates and produces flavors for many of the largest food, beverage, and nutritional companies in the world. It has been doing this for 30 years—a testament to its sustained excellence and commitment to serving customers through cutting-edge technology and personal attention.

CEO and Founder Joe Slawek calls this the "high-tech, high touch" approach. He founded

FONA International in 1987 on these principles. He built a business that could compete with the largest flavor companies but stay connected with customers and his family of employees in a way that only a small business can. The honor of this award speaks to that success.

FONA International has been cited by Fortune magazine as one of the top fifty best places to work for medium-sized businesses nationwide. Fortune also named FONA International as the Number 1 workplace in Chicagoland.

To be selected just once as a National Best & Brightest Company would be a distinguished honor. To receive this award seven years in a row is nothing less than a spectacular achievement.

I congratulate Joe Slawek and the employees of FONA International for this remarkable recognition. I thank FONA International for its years of service to the local community and for its leadership in the flavor production industry. I wish you continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 104; YEA on Roll Call No. 105; YEA on Roll Call No. 106; NAY on Roll Call No. 107; YEA on Roll Call No. 108; NAY on Roll Call No. 109; YEA on Roll Call No. 110; NAY on Roll Call No. 111; YEA on Roll Call No. 112; YEA on Roll Call No. 113, and YEA on Roll Call No. 114.

TRIBUTE TO LEE HOLLOWAY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Lee Holloway. He served for 20 years in Milwaukee County in many positions including: a Milwaukee County Supervisor and Chairman for the Milwaukee County Board and County Executive of Milwaukee County. Mr. Lee Holloway passed away on March 14, 2018 at the age of 71.

Mr. Holloway was a life-long Milwaukee resident. He was a product of the public school system and a graduate of Lincoln High School where he excelled at football. He was granted an athletic scholarship to the University of Arkansas and graduated in 1969 and earned an M.S. in developmental disabilities from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee in 1972.

Prior to becoming an elected official, Lee Holloway was a guidance counselor at Messmer High School. He was a health care field innovator and served as the Chief Operating Officer of both the Inner City Development Project-North and the Milwaukee Comprehensive Community Health Center. Mr. Holloway championed healthcare for the poor and unemployed people.

Lee Holloway was initially elected in 1992 as a Milwaukee County Supervisor representing the 5th District and in 2004 became the first African American elected as Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and served in this position for 8 years. In 2010, he became the first African American County Executive of Milwaukee County for a brief period where he served dually in this position and that as Chair of the Milwaukee County Board. Mr. Holloway led efforts to create a county general assistance health safety net program; this program was later expanded statewide as Badger Care. He also successfully led the effort to win voter approval of a county sales tax increase in a 2008 referendum.

Mr. Holloway and his wife Lynda were very involved in the Milwaukee Kickers Club; they guided the Simba League to provide an entrance for inner city youth to participate in soccer through the Milwaukee Kickers Club.

Lee Holloway leaves behind his loving wife Lynda, six sons and two granddaughters and five grandsons and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn his passing. He leaves a strong legacy of leadership for his children and grandchildren to model.

Mr. Speaker, Lee Holloway was a Milwaukee and Wisconsin trailblazer and will be remembered for his service to the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Lee Holloway.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF GHANA

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo and the people of Ghana on the occasion of President Akufo-Addo's visit to the United States.

Ghana tops many lists of Africa's most peaceful and stable democracies, boasting an uninterrupted series of free and fair elections since 1992 that have seen power change hands between the two major parties three times. Freedom House ranks Ghana first on the continent for political and civil liberties. It was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of its people in extreme poverty, achieving this milestone well ahead of the 2015 target. The World Bank places Ghana first in its West African sub-region for ease of doing business.

Since his election, economic growth has surged from 3.6 percent to 7.9 percent. The World Bank projects an additional increase of 8.3 percent in 2018, making Ghana one of the world's fastest-growing economies. At the same time, Ghana's budget deficit as a proportion of GDP has been slashed from 9.3 percent to 5.6 percent even as the government has cut taxes. That would become an international cultural landmark. The school appeared in many movies and television shows until 1971, when portions sustained damage in the Sylmar earthquake, and then were ravaged by fire while awaiting assessment and repair.

Underpinned by a rich endowment of oil, gold and cocoa, Ghana's \$43 billion economy

is becoming increasingly diversified. Expansion outside the commodity sector and renewed confidence in the government's ability to manage its finances are seen by analysts as key drivers of the country's current performance and growing attractiveness as a destination for the U.S. and other investors.

During President Akufo-Addo's American visit, he will receive an Exemplary Leadership award from: The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa; AllAfrica Foundation; The Constituency for Africa; The Corporate Council on Africa; Invest Africa USA; The U.S. Chamber of Commerce/U.S.-Africa Business Center; Africare; and The Whitaker Group. I stand with them to honor his work as Ghana continues to be a beacon of hope, a model for democracy and a leader on the African continent.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT
THOMAS HOGSHEAD ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Thomas Hogshead, who is retiring from the Village of Cherry Valley Police Department. Sergeant Hogshead has honorably dedicated his service to the citizens of Winnebago and Boone Counties and the Village of Cherry Valley for the past 25 years, and he will be greatly missed.

Sergeant Hogshead entered the line of duty with the Village of Cherry Valley Police Department on November 3, 1993. Since then, he has worked hard to secure the safety of the citizens of Winnebago and Boone Counties and his community. Through his tireless work ethic and professionalism he has set the tone for the rest of his department to follow. Someone once said, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way," and Sergeant Hogshead has proven himself to be a leader to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Sergeant Hogshead for his commitment to the Village of Cherry Valley Police Department and for all of the work he has done to better our communities. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CABARRUS
COUNTY'S DIRECTOR OF EMER-
GENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ALAN THOMPSON AND HIS SERV-
ICE TO CABARRUS COUNTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize EMS Director Alan Thompson on nearly 30 years of service to North Carolina's 8th District and for serving as the Cabarrus County Director of Emergency Medical Services.

Alan has spent his life dedicated to public service. His career began as a volunteer firefighter until he was hired by Rowan County

EMS. During this time, Alan also served our country as part of the Army National Guard. Since being hired by Cabarrus County he has applied his knowledge in EMS to our community and helped those who need it most. He has been an integral part of helping me assist our constituents and provide them with the best services possible.

Over the years, Alan has been devoted to bettering lives in Cabarrus County. He worked as a paramedic field training officer, relief supervisor, supervisor and assistant director before he took on the EMS director position. Alan has also served as a tactical paramedic, a state medical assistance team member, ambulance strike team leader, educator, advanced hazardous materials medic and track medic. As you can see, Alan's servant heart never stops, no matter the day or time.

While Alan may no longer be the EMS Director, he will continue his passion for EMS as Director of Curriculum and continuing education programs for EMS and emergency management at Rowan Cabarrus Community College. This position will allow Alan to groom future EMS technicians and paramedics. I have no doubt the students under his leadership and experience will become the best in North Carolina. I am extremely grateful for Alan's service to our community and I wish him continued success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring EMS Director Alan Thompson for his service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE MCINTOSH
SLAUGHTER, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS, FIRST WOMAN CHAIR OF
RULES COMMITTEE, AND INDE-
FATIGABLE CHAMPION FOR
WOMEN AND FAMILIES, THE
ARTS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my dear friend and our beloved colleague, Congresswoman LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER of New York, a trailblazer for women, whose powerful voice was quieted this past Friday morning, March 16, 2018.

LOUISE SLAUGHTER lived a long, full, and consequential life and got the most out of the 88 years she graced this world.

She will be remembered in this House for her service to her constituents and her colleagues, her formidable intellect, her mastery of the legislative process, and her graciousness and kindness to all who came in contact with her.

After serving four years in the New York State Assembly, LOUISE SLAUGHTER was elected to the 100th Congress in 1986 to represent the 30th Congressional District of New York, which at the time included downtown and eastern Rochester, most of eastern Monroe County, all of Genesee County and northern Livingston and Ontario counties.

Reelected to the 15 succeeding Congresses, LOUISE SLAUGHTER carved out a legacy of leadership and accomplishments in the areas of women's rights and empowerment, the arts, health care, battlefield preparedness,

economic revitalization, the environment, and social justice.

Born in the coal mining town of Lynch, Kentucky and educated at the University of Kentucky where she earned degrees in microbiology and public health, LOUISE SLAUGHTER understood the connection between public health and a vibrant democracy, and fought to ensure passage of the landmark Affordable Care Act.

In the 112th Congress, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER introduced and shepherded to passage Pub. L. 112-105, the "Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act" or "STOCK Act," which prohibits the use of non-public information for private profit, including insider trading by members of Congress and other government employees, and requires many financial transactions by members of Congress to be reported within 45 days.

Mr. Speaker, since her first years on Capitol Hill, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER was an advocate for women all over the world.

Among her many accomplishments, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER co-authored the landmark Violence Against Women Act, ensured the first federal funding to the National Institutes of Health to research breast cancer, and was a co-founder of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus.

It is particularly fitting and altogether appropriate that this tireless champion of women, children, and families represented an area near Seneca Falls, the location of the first women's rights convention in 1848.

The dean of New York's Congressional Delegation, LOUISE SLAUGHTER was the first woman to chair the powerful House Rules Committee, and the first woman to serve as Ranking Member of the Committee, and in both roles she carried the banner and led the fight for progressive values and to make our good country better.

I will always remember and be grateful to Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER for her help in my duties representing the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

I worked closely with Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER and drew upon her counsel and assistance to shepherd scores of bills and amendments to passage that have been beneficial to my constituents.

LOUISE SLAUGHTER was incredibly generous with her knowledge and experience and served as a mentor to new members of Congress, including me.

I will never forget that LOUISE SLAUGHTER's advocacy continued until her last days with us, including the National Women's March in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, LOUISE SLAUGHTER was an iron fist in a velvet glove.

A native of Kentucky, LOUISE SLAUGHTER never lost her Southern twang and charm.

LOUISE SLAUGHTER effortlessly mixed humor with logic to win over skeptics.

And then after disarming you, LOUISE SLAUGHTER made her move.

Through her words and deeds, LOUISE SLAUGHTER worked to make the lives of all Americans better.

LOUISE SLAUGHTER was a dear friend and her loss leaves a void in my heart.

It is my prayer that the Lord brings comfort to the many people—those whom LOUISE knew and those who felt they knew LOUISE SLAUGHTER—who know that a mighty oak has fallen and are heartbroken at the loss.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUILD FOR
EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guild for Exceptional Children on its 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1958 by the loved ones of those with developmental disabilities, the Guild for Exceptional Children has been a much-needed non-profit in my district. Starting as a group of parents supporting each other when needed, the Guild eventually evolved into an innovative advocacy organization that has initiated numerous options for community living for those with disabilities. Opening New York City's first group home in 1970, the Guild has been the vanguard fighting for disabled individuals. The impact that the Guild for Exceptional Children has had on our community is nothing short of incredible. This outstanding organization always advocates for those who need it most.

The Guild for Exceptional Children also provides clinical, educational, social, and career support programs for those with special needs. Everyone involved with this wonderful group can see firsthand how instrumental it is in the lives of adults and children with developmental disabilities. From the parents to the volunteers to the beneficiaries, the combined altruistic work that the Guild does simply speaks for itself. Their efforts cannot be repaid, as they fight to ensure that those with special needs are able to live a normal and fulfilling life.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Guild for Exceptional Children on its 60th anniversary. Countless constituents of mine have been helped by their fantastic efforts. For everything they have done, I thank them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE CRAIG D. JOHNSTON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Craig D. Johnston on his retirement from a career in public service.

Craig received his bachelor's degree from Dickinson College before serving as an infantry officer during the Vietnam War. After returning home, Craig earned a law degree from the University of Virginia. He practiced law in Manassas for 30 years where he was a board member and past president of the Prince William County Bar Association. Additionally, he represented Prince William County on the Virginia State Bar Council for two terms.

In 2004, Craig was appointed as a judge of the Prince William General District Court of the 31st Judicial District of Virginia. In recogni-

tion of his leadership and knowledge, Craig was appointed to the Prince William Circuit Court of the 31st Judicial Circuit of Virginia in 2009. Craig was selected to serve as chief judge of both the Prince William General District Court and the Prince William Circuit Court.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Honorable Craig Johnston for his service to Virginia. I wish Craig and his wife, Joyce, the best as they spend more time with their children and grandchildren in retirement.

IN CELEBRATION OF MS. BETTYE
JEAN WILSON FRANKLIN'S 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Bettye Jean Wilson Franklin's 90th birthday.

Ms. Franklin was born on March 18, 1928 to the late Winburn Wilson and Ruby Cass Gray.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Ms. Franklin attended and graduated from historical I.M. Terrell high school. Her passion for education inspired her to work for Fort Worth ISD for 27 years until her retirement in 1990.

But it's her everlasting commitment to her faith that is well-known among her friends and family. Ms. Franklin has been a faithful member of Saint James Baptist for the past 77 years, which she contributed in various capacities, including her participation in the senior choir for 52 years.

In addition, she serves her community as a member of The Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and Fort Worth Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Ms. Franklin is also a member of the Eastern Star Southern Beauty chapter 446 and served as Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Texas for 13 years.

She is the proud mother of two daughters, Brenda Williams and Willie Mae McQueen, grandmother of four grandchildren, and great-grandmother to her seven great grandchildren.

WELCOMING THE AGA KHAN TO
TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life in service to humanity. It is my pleasure to welcome His Highness the Aga Khan IV, the 49th hereditary Imam of the world's 20 million Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, to my home state of Texas in celebration of his Diamond Jubilee.

The ethics of compassion and care, tolerance and equality, selflessness and service center His Highness' deeply held belief in and practice of the Muslim faith. Particularly in recent years, the Aga Khan has pledged his voice to articulate the values of peace, gen-

erosity and brotherhood that unquestionably compose the core of Islam. He often says his obligations to his community and to humankind are inseparable. This has driven the Aga Khan to call on us to celebrate our differences of religion, culture, language and ethnicity as evidence of humanity's great beauty. Our inherent diversity, he says, should propel humankind to embrace pluralism.

Ismaili Muslims have a deep connection to Texas, the DFW Metroplex and myself. For more than a decade, I have partnered with the Ismaili Muslim community to host the Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue, which we held first in 2007 during the Aga Khan's Golden Jubilee. It brings together students from my district with youth of all backgrounds to think critically about the challenges we can address through global citizenship. The program brings to light the positive impact young Ismaili Muslims make on the world around them.

Alongside his role as Imam, the Aga Khan has established many global humanitarian organizations, one of which is the Aga Khan Development Network. The AKDN promotes human dignity and self-sustaining growth by administering education and healthcare in many of the most impoverished and isolated parts of the developing world. Three of the most distinguished AKDN projects are the Aga Khan Academies, which offer world-class educations to children in remote, school-deprived regions. When I visited the Aga Khan Academy in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015, I was emotionally struck by the undeniable love of humankind evident in the AKDN's work to help those children reach their full potential. It became clear to me that the driving force behind each of the Aga Khan's endeavors is his desire to foster progress and peace through hope. For hope, he says, is the most powerful source of human motivation.

It is this spirit, born of the example of the Aga Khan, which led 2,500 Ismaili Muslim volunteers to help their neighbors in Houston recover from the devastation triggered by Hurricane Harvey last August. For this selfless generosity, they were presented one of the five Points of Light awards by the five living former presidents. The Ismaili Muslim community's response to the unsounded call of duty exemplifies their unrelenting effort to serve humanity at large.

Mr. Speaker, His Highness the Aga Khan—through his work, rooted in the Muslim faith—is a testament to Islam being a religion of both the intellect and humility, of both tradition and progress. The celebration of the Aga Khan's Diamond Jubilee is a monumental occasion for Ismaili Muslims across the world. I wish to congratulate the American Ismaili Muslim community and convey to His Highness the Aga Khan that he and the values of tolerance, diversity and pluralism that Ismaili Muslims uphold will always be welcome in the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF POLLY MILLHOUSER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 100th birthday of Polly Millhouser.

Polly was born March 22, 1918, in Waukegan, Illinois. In 1937, at the age of 19, she threw caution to the wind and moved to Honolulu, Hawaii with a friend, working as a secretary for the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the tragic attack of 1941, she met Charles, a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, when he stopped by her office one day; she caught his eye and by way of introduction he threw a paper clip in her direction. They married in Honolulu in 1943.

After the war Polly and Charles moved to his hometown of Evanston, Illinois, where their children Mary (Latta), Jean and Robert were born. Later they lived in Arlington Heights, Illinois, where Polly was a homemaker and school volunteer. Polly and Charles retired to Mountain Home, Arkansas in 1987 where she quickly became active in the community, volunteering at the elementary school and the Mountain Home library. Charles passed away in October 1990 at 71 years of age.

She loved listening to the first-graders practice reading, and she spent many happy hours shelving books at the library, working at the library book sales and hosting/attending Friends of the Library meetings. She was honored for her years of service to the library when Baxter County proclaimed April 25, 2009 as Polly Millhouser Day. Polly is a member and former Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Polly stayed active as a member of a casual walking group of friends who for years walked a 3-mile loop at a local park three times a week. She finally quit putting up her own storm windows when she turned 93. By her grandson David and Amy (Downs) Latta, she has two amazing great-grandchildren, Hannah and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Mrs. Millhouser a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI IRONMAN CHAMP, GINI FELLOWS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia "Gini" Fellows, a resident in my district and 71-year-old Ironman triathlete.

Gini was born and raised near Detroit, Michigan, became a Registered Nurse, and married Dr. William Fellows in 1970. In 1978, the couple was recruited by Gulf Coast Medical Center and moved to Long Beach, Mississippi, making the coast their home.

A skiing injury in her twenties resulted in knee surgery and many years later, rehabilitative therapy. Meanwhile, their son Patrick, a race event organizer, saw an opportunity to put his mom's freshly revived knee to work in an upcoming all-women's triathlon held in April 2007. She agreed to do the race, vowing to set her own pace, and won her age division at age 59.

That first race gave Gini the confidence to enter more races, and over the next couple of years, she completed two Ironman half-marathons leading up to competing in the Florida Ironman Triathlon in 2016.

Winning her age division in Florida qualified Gini for the 2017 World Championship Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. Husband

Bill encouraged Gini to keep training in spite of his own bout of lung cancer. Sadly, six weeks before her race in Kona, Bill passed away.

When asked how one mentally handles the physical challenge of a triathlon, Gini explained that she focused her thoughts on her various friends within each portion of the event. During the 112-mile bike ride, she thought of her friends with whom she likes to ride; likewise with the 26.2 mile run. During the 2.4-mile swim, she thought of the lifeguards who look after her as she trains and races. She reflected on her family, their children and 11 grandchildren, but she saved her "Last Mile" for Bill, focusing her thoughts on their 47½ years of marriage, the love they shared, and the lifetime of memories created between them.

Gini is an inspiration and encourager to those who show interest in running or competing. Gini says to start with that first step and to start by walking. At age 71, Gini has found a passion for triathlons and says, "I plan to stick with it, as long as I'm able." I am proud to honor Gini Fellows, an inspirational triathlete and Ironman from Mississippi's Fightin' Fourth District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT CARL PHILIPPE ENIS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the tragic loss of Staff Sgt. Carl Philippe Enis, one of seven brave U.S. service members killed in a helicopter crash last Thursday, March 15, 2018 in western Iraq.

Carl, a South Florida native who grew up in my Congressional District in Pinecrest, was an Air Force pararescueman serving in a combat role in Iraq for the 308th Rescue Squadron from Patrick Air Force Base supporting Operation Inherent Resolve when his helicopter went down.

Sergeant Enis was a Reserve Citizen Airman combat rescue and recovery specialist who supported Air Force and special operations.

Carl's job truly embodied his heart and spirit where he consistently put his own life at risk to save others both in combat and humanitarian environments.

He always tackled every challenge with a smile on his face, no matter the danger or difficulty.

Carl was also an active outdoorsman who embraced his passion for fishing, hiking, hunting and scuba diving and lived his life to the fullest.

Sergeant Enis was a graduate of Gulliver Prep and Florida State University.

Carl is survived by his wife Angela, his mother Colleen, and his brother Edward.

Their families, the community, and all Americans can be proud knowing that Sergeant Enis gave his last full measure performing his mission and serving the most noble Pararescue creed: 'These things we do, that others may live'.

YEAR OF THE BLACK WOMAN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the black women in our country who have, for decades, led this nation's fight for justice without the recognition they deserve.

Some are calling 2018 the year of the black woman. This year, black women are proving the strength of their voice at the ballot box, black women are running for office in record numbers, and black women are leading movements against sexual harassment and police violence. But I believe that 2018 is the year of the black woman because, after decades of activism and advocacy, this is our year to give black women the recognition they deserve.

As we celebrate women's history month, let's reflect on the fact that today's story of the suffrage movement so often imagines America's suffragettes as uniformly white. That was not the case. From Sojourner Truth to Nannie Helen Burroughs, we must remember the courageous black women who stood up for their right to vote.

Let us remember Ida B. Wells, who led the fight for women's rights but was asked to march at the back of the women's suffrage parade because she was black. She refused, she persisted, and she marched with her state's delegation for her right to vote.

Black women have not only led our nation's fight for justice for decades, but they have understood the true nature of injustice for just as long.

Today's social justice movements have taken ahold of the concept of intersectionality—the fact that race, class and gender, do not exist separately but create interwoven systems of discrimination.

It was a black woman—Kimberlé Crenshaw—who originally coined the term "intersectionality" in 1989. But even before intersectionality was a word, it was black women who knew the truth about the injustices of discrimination in America.

It was 1893 when a black suffragette named Anna Julia Cooper said,

"The colored woman feels that woman's cause is one and universal; and that not till the image of God, whether in parian or ebony, is sacred and inviolable; not till race, color, sex, and condition are seen as the accidents, and not the substance of life; not till the universal title of humanity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is conceded to be inalienable to all; not till then is woman's lesson taught and woman's cause won."

Generations of black women have fought, bled and died for their right to vote. And so many of these heroes are from my home state of Alabama. It was the death of four little black girls in the bombing of Birmingham's 16th St. Baptist Church that awakened our nation to the realities of violent racism. Heroes like Recy Taylor, Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin and Autherine Lucy Foster—to name only a few—stood up against brut violence to build a world where men and women of every race and class have the opportunities they deserve.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we must not only remember the sacrifices they made, but the work that remains to be done

in their fight for justice. These women passed onto us the rights and the opportunities that we enjoy today, but they also handed down a responsibility to carry on their work, fighting not just for women, not just for African Americans, but for all people, against all injustice.

Today, I'm proud to see so many black women leading that fight. From the Black Lives Matter movement to the Me Too movement, their contributions and their leadership are changing the way our society understands and addresses discrimination and injustice.

This Women's History Month, in the Year of the Black Woman, I want to use this moment to recognize the countless black women who have spent their lives fighting to make America live up to its ideals, as well as all those black women who are still alive today carrying on that fight.

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, March 20, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kirsten Dawn Madison, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), and Thomas J. Hushek, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, and Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, and Charles J. Williams, to be United States District

Judge for the Northern District of Iowa.

SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine election security.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President.

SD-608

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine stability and security challenges in Lebanon.

SD-419

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for veterans' programs and fiscal year 2020 advance appropriations requests.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1250, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and S. 2515, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for Indian Programs.

SD-628

MARCH 22

9:30 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the Good Friday Agreement at 20, focusing on achievements and unfinished business.

RHOE-2200

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the challenges in the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Affairs), and James Edward Campos, of Nevada, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, both of the Department of Energy, and James Reilly, of Colorado, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 2539, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize certain projects to increase Colorado River System water, S. 2560, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and S. 2563, to improve the water supply and drought resilience of the United States.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2018 trade policy agenda.

SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kari A. Dooley, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Dominic W. Lanza, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Jill Aiko Otake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Thomas T. Cullen, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Robert K. Hur, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, and David C. Joseph, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

2 p.m.

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.

SH-219

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 21

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine unleashing America's economic potential.

SD-G50

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1773–S1797

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2567–2571, and S. Res. 437–439. **Page S1790**

Measures Reported:

S. 526, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 791, to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses.

S. 1538, to amend the Small Business Act to establish awareness of, and technical assistance for, the creation of employee stock ownership plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1961, to amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1995, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the number of small business investment companies in underlicensed States, with an amendment.

S. 2283, to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2419, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the technical and business assistance services under the SBIR and STTR programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2527, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies. **Page S1790**

Measures Passed:

Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3731, to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret

Service, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S1796

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 2214, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1796**

Measures Considered:

Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking. **Pages S1773–80, S1780–84**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 94 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 57), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1780**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill be vitiated, and that a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, Senate begin consideration of the bill; that the only amendments in order be Wyden Amendment No. 2212 and Amendment No. 2213; and that there be up to four hours of debate concurrently on the amendments, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for adoption of each amendment, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with no further action or debate. **Page S1784**

Appointments:

United States Holocaust Memorial Council: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, appointed the

following Senator to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Senator Cardin. **Page S1796**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: Senator Manchin, from the Committee on Appropriations. **Page S1796**

Yemen Joint Resolution—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following the resumption of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, on Tuesday, March 20, 2017, Senator Sanders, or his designee, be recognized to offer a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 54, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress; provided further that there be up to 4 hours of debate, equally divided between the opponents and proponents of the resolution, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on or in relation to the motion to discharge. **Page S1784**

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 issuance of an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 on March 8, 2015; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM—30) **Page S1787**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a social security totalization agreement with Uruguay, titled “Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay,” and an accompanying legally binding administrative arrangement titled “Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security”; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM—31) **Page S1787**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 77 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 56), Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S1780**

Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce. **Page S1784**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Aimee Kathryn Jorjani, of Wisconsin, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a term expiring January 19, 2021.

Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

Joseph N. Mondello, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mark Schultz, of Nebraska, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

Edward W. Felten, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring January 29, 2019.

Jane Nitze, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2023.

Routine lists in the Army. **Pages S1796–97**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1787–88**

Measures Referred: **Page S1788**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1788**

Executive Communications: **Page S1788**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S1789–90**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1790–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1792–95**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1786–87**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1795–96**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—57) **Page S1780**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1796.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 5323–5335; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 788–790; were introduced. **Pages H1697–98**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1698–99**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5131, to improve the effectiveness of Federal efforts to identify and address homeland security risks to surface transportation, secure against vehicle-based attacks, and conduct a feasibility assessment of introducing new security technologies and measures, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–602);

H.R. 5099, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a fusion center technical assistance program (H. Rept. 115–603);

H.R. 5089, to improve threat information sharing, integrated operations, and law enforcement training for transportation security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–604);

H.R. 4176, to strengthen air cargo security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–605);

H.R. 5079, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–606);

H.R. 5074, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–607);

H.R. 4467, to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–608);

H.R. 4227, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–609);

H.R. 5094, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to improve suspicious activity reporting to prevent acts of terrorism, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–610);

H.R. 5081, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Transportation Security Administration the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–611);

H.R. 4851, to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for

other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–612); and

H. Res. 787, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4566) to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide relief to nonbanks from certain stress test requirements under such Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5247) to authorize the use of eligible investigational drugs by eligible patients who have been diagnosed with a stage of a disease or condition in which there is reasonable likelihood that death will occur within a matter of months, or with another eligible illness, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–613).

Page H1697

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Meadows to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1655

Recess: The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H1658

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. Slaughter, the whole number of the House is 430.

Page H1659

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

Page H1659

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act: S. 2030, to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling fan light kits to be January 21, 2020;

Pages H1659–61

DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act of 2018: H.R. 5074, amended, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes;

Pages H1661–63

Air Cargo Security Improvement Act: H.R. 4176, amended, to strengthen air cargo security, and for other purposes;

Pages H1663–65

Enhancing DHS Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program Act: H.R. 5099, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a fusion center technical assistance program;

Pages H1665–66

DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act: H.R. 5079, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers;

Pages H1667–69

Kennedy-King Establishment Act of 2018: H.R. 4851, amended, to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 391 yeas to 0 nays, Roll No. 116, and **Pages H1675–77, H1679**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To establish the Kennedy-King National Commemorative Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes.”.

Page H1679

Modifying the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument: H.R. 835, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 385 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 115. **Pages H1677–79**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:43 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1678**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the late Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter. **Page H1679**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act: H.R. 4227, amended, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes; **Pages H1666–67**

Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018: H.R. 5131, amended, to improve the effectiveness of Federal efforts to identify and address homeland security risks to surface transportation, secure against vehicle-based attacks, and conduct a feasibility assessment of introducing new security technologies and measures; **Pages H1669–71**

Strengthening Aviation Security Act: H.R. 4467, amended, to require the Federal Air Marshal Service to utilize risk-based strategies; and **Pages H1671–73**

Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018: H.R. 5089, amended, to improve threat information sharing, integrated operations, and law enforcement training for transportation security. **Pages H1673–75**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to H. Res. 788, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter. **Page H1680**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the Agreement On Social Security Between The United States And Uruguay; Referred to the Committee on Ways

and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–102). **Page H1678**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified the Congress of the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Venezuela. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Financial Services and order to be printed (H. Doc. 115–103). **Pages H1683–84**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1678–79 and H1679. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at noon and at 9:44 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 788, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter.

Committee Meetings

ALLEVIATING STRESS TEST BURDENS TO HELP INVESTORS ACT; TRICKETT WENDLER, FRANK MONGIELLO, JORDAN MCLINN, AND MATTHEW BELLINA RIGHT TO TRY ACT OF 2018

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4566, the “Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act”; and H.R. 5247, the “Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018”. The Committee granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 4566. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–65, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which 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 amendment printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 5247 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 Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. In section 3, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported through the legislative day of March 23, 2018. In section 4, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 22, 2018, or March 23, 2018, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Finally, in section 5, the rule extends the Holman Rule standing order provided in H. Res. 5 through the end of the 115th Congress. Testimony was heard from Representatives Poliquin, Maxine Waters of California, Griffith, and Pallone.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D253)

H.R. 294, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the “Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building”. Signed on March 16, 2018. (Public Law 115–133)

H.R. 452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the “Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office”. Signed on March 16, 2018. (Public Law 115–134)

H.R. 535, to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels. Signed on March 16, 2018. (Public Law 115–135)

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. Signed on March 16, 2018. (Public Law 115–136)

S. 831, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Police Officer

Scott Bashioum Post Office Building”. Signed on March 16, 2018. (Public Law 115–137)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Marine Corps ground modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine an update on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and automaker efforts to repair defective Takata air bag inflators, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John J. Bartrum, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10:10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. Res. 85, calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation’s history, S. Res. 224, recognizing the 5th anniversary of the death of Oswaldo Paya Sardinias, and commemorating his legacy and commitment to democratic values and principles, S. Res. 376, urging the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military, S. Res. 426, supporting the goals of International Women’s Day, S. Res. 429, commemorating the 59th anniversary of Tibet’s 1959 uprising as “Tibetan Rights Day”, and expressing support for the human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people and the Tibetan Buddhist faith community, S. Res. 432, congratulating the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 100th anniversary of their declarations of independence, H.R. 1660, to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to

Congress a report on the development and use of global health innovations in the programs, projects, and activities of the Agency, extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo (the “Treaty”), signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115–02), the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013, and the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014 (Treaty Doc. 114–13), extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia (the “Treaty”), signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115–01), the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 114–07), and the nominations of Erik Bethel, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Judy Lynn Shelton, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Kevin Edward Moley, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), Robert Frank Pence, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Trevor D. Traina, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), and Edward Charles Prado, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State, Josephine Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps, and Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, 10:30 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Commerce, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 9:30 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Education, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Assessing the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request and Acquisition Reform Progress”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “Submarine Industrial Base: Options for Construction”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Navy Readiness Posture”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Expanding Affordable Health Care Options: Examining the Department of Labor’s Proposed Rule on Association Health Plans”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy; and Subcommittee on Environment, joint hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2019 Nuclear Regulatory Commission Budget”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “The Drug Enforcement Administration’s Role in Combating the Opioid Epidemic”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance, hearing entitled “Exploring the Financial Nexus of Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection; and the Subcommittee on Information Technology of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, joint hearing entitled “CDM: Government Perspectives on Security and Modernization”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing entitled “Preventable Violence in America: An Examination of Law Enforcement Information Sharing and Misguided Public Policy”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Assessing the Effectiveness of the Transitional Program for Covered Business Method Patents”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing entitled “Policy Priorities for the Administration’s FY 2019 Budget for Indian Affairs and Insular Areas”, 10:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 5210, to establish the National Park Restoration Fund, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2584, the “National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled “Workforce Development: Advancing Apprenticeships for Small Business”, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Impacts

of the 2017 Wildfires in the United States”, 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 888, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain totally disabled veterans; H.R. 4335, the “Service-member Family Burial Act”; H.R. 4910, the “Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act”; and H.R. 4958, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018”, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 1206, the “Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2017”; H.R. 3023, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay reporting fees to educational institutions; H.R. 3940, the “Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act”; H.R. 4451, the “Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 4830, the “SIT-REP Act”; H.R. 4835, the “Job TOOLS for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5044, the “Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act”; legislation on the VA Home Loan Improvement Act of 2018; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 20 through March 23, 2018

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act.

Following resumption of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, Senator Sanders, or his designee, will make a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 54, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, with up to 4 hours of debate, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate will vote on or in relation to the motion to discharge.

On *Wednesday*, Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, and vote on or in relation to Wyden Amendment No. 2212 and Amendment No. 2213, and on passage of the bill.

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 Armed Services: March 20, to hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 20, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Marine Corps ground modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

March 21, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

March 21, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

March 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the challenges in the Department of Energy’s atomic energy defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 22, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: March 21, to hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President, 10:30 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 20, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine an update on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and automaker efforts to repair defective Takata air bag inflators, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

March 22, Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 20, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD-366.

March 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Affairs), and James Edward Campos, of Nevada, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, both of the Department of Energy, and James Reilly, of Colorado, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 2539, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations

Act, 2015, to reauthorize certain projects to increase Colorado River System water, S. 2560, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and S. 2563, to improve the water supply and drought resilience of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 20, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 10 a.m., SD-406.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 20, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John J. Bartrum, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10:10 a.m., SD-215.

March 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's 2018 trade policy agenda, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 20, business meeting to consider S. Res. 85, calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history, S. Res. 224, recognizing the 5th anniversary of the death of Oswaldo Paya Sardinias, and commemorating his legacy and commitment to democratic values and principles, S. Res. 376, urging the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military, S. Res. 426, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. Res. 429, commemorating the 59th anniversary of Tibet's 1959 uprising as "Tibetan Rights Day", and expressing support for the human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people and the Tibetan Buddhist faith community, S. Res. 432, congratulating the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 100th anniversary of their declarations of independence, H.R. 1660, to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the development and use of global health innovations in the programs, projects, and activities of the Agency, extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo (the "Treaty"), signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-02), the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013, and the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014 (Treaty Doc. 114-13), extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic

of Serbia (the "Treaty"), signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-01), the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 114-07), and the nominations of Erik Bethel, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Judy Lynn Shelton, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Kevin Edward Moley, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), Robert Frank Pence, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Trevor D. Traina, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), and Edward Charles Prado, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State, Josephine Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps, and Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, 10:30 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kirsten Dawn Madison, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), and Thomas J. Hushek, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

March 21, Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine stability and security challenges in Lebanon, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 21, business meeting to consider S. 1250, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and S. 2515, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for Indian Programs, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 20, to hold hearings to examine the need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, and Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, and Charles J. Williams, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kari A. Dooley, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Dominic W. Lanza,

to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Jill Aiko Otake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Thomas T. Cullen, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Robert K. Hur, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, and David C. Joseph, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 21, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for veterans' programs and fiscal year 2020 advance appropriations requests, 2 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 20, to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine election security, 10 a.m., SH-216.

March 22, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 10 a.m., H-310 Capitol.

March 21, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture, 1:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Open World Leadership Trust Fund, 2:30 p.m., HT-2 Capitol.

March 22, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing entitled "FY 19 Budget Hearing, Applied Energy", 9 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled "State and Non-State Actor Influence Operations: Recommendations for U.S. National Security", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled "Ground Force Modernization Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Military Personnel Posture: FY 2019", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities", 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Reviewing Department of Defense Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) for Fiscal Year 2019", 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 21, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Combating the

Opioid Crisis: Prevention and Public Health Solutions", 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Combating the Opioid Crisis: Prevention and Public Health Solutions", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Legislative Hearing on Four Communications Bills", 10:15 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2683, the "Protecting Veterans Credit Act of 2017"; H.R. 4659, to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to recognize the exposure-reducing nature of client margin for cleared derivatives.; H.R. 4790, to amend the Volcker rule to give the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System sole rule-making authority, to exclude community banks from the requirements of the Volcker rule, and for other purposes; H.R. 4861, the "Ensuring Quality Unbiased Access to Loans Act of 2018"; H.R. 5051, the "Public Company Registration Threshold Act"; H.R. 5076, the "Small Bank Exam Cycle Improvement Act of 2018"; H.R. 5082, the "Practice of Law Technical Clarification Act of 2018"; and H.R. 5323, the "Derivatives Fairness Act", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The FY 2019 Foreign Assistance Budget", 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 21, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled U.S. "Responses to China's Foreign Influence Operations", 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "Implications of a U.S.-Saudi Arabia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement for the Middle East", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, March 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 305, the "FDLP Modernization Act of 2018", 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Shared Employees", 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3997, the "Free Veterans from Fees Act"; H.R. 4257, the "Advancing Conservation and Education Act"; H.R. 5005, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System; and H.R. 5269, the "State and Territorial Approval for Restriction of Fishing Act", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 21, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing entitled Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Spending, Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Four Power Marketing Administrations", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 21, Subcommittee on Government Operations; and Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, joint hearing entitled "Improper Payments in State-Administered Programs: Medicaid", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on National Security hearing entitled “Bureaucratic Challenges to Hurricane Recovery in Puerto Rico”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 21, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the “American Leadership in Space Technology and Advanced Rocketry Act”; legislation on the “Commercial Space Support Vehicle Act”; and H.R. 5086, the “Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “Empowering U.S. Veterans Through Technology”, 1:30 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “American Infrastructure and the Small Business Perspective”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5294, the “Treating Barriers to Prosperity Act of 2018”; H.R. 3288, the “Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H. Con. Res. 115, the “Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition”; H. Con. Res. 113, the “Authorizing the use of Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby”; H.R. 4177, the “PREPARE Act of 2017”; H.R. 5319, to transfer Coast Guard property in the Town of Jupiter Island, Florida, for inclusion

in Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge; legislation on the Maritime Technical Corrections Act of 2018; H.R. 4673, the “Promoting Women in the Aviation Workforce Act”; and legislation on General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Trade Policy Agenda”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

March 21, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Implementation of MACRA’s Physician Payment Policies”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

March 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with Commerce Secretary Ross”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 22, Full Committee, business meeting on Adoption of the Committee’s Investigative Report into Russian Active Measures During the 2016 Presidential Election, 9 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: March 22, to hold hearings to examine the Good Friday Agreement at 20, focusing on achievements and unfinished business, 9:30 a.m., 2200 Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act.

Following resumption of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, Senator Sanders, or his designee, will make a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 54, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, with up to 4 hours of debate, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate will vote on or in relation to the motion to discharge.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 20

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 4566—Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act.

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