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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 1, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LIZ CHENEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE PAGO PAGO DECLARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and that of the Samoan people for the April 23 visit of Vice President MIKE PENCE, who was accompanied by the Second Lady and their daughters to my home district, the United States Territory of American Samoa, upon the conclusion of his historic 10-day visit to strategic Asian and Pacific partners. Upon his arrival to Pago Pago, the Vice President remarked that he was glad to be back on American soil.

This historic visit to American Samoa marks only the third time a sitting Vice President has graced our shores and follows in the footsteps of past visits from Vice Presidents Quayle in 1989 and Biden in 2016. Previous visits to our beautiful islands from White House dignitaries include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1943, President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, and President Jimmy Carter's son, Jeffrey, who represented his father at the inauguration of our first elected Governor in 1977, who happens to be my father, Peter Tali Coleman.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to legislation I introduced in February, which was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on May 31, the Vice President came to American Samoa at my humble request to dedicate our veterans clinic to the memory of the late former representative of American Samoa, Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, with whom the Vice President served the entirety of his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2013.

While in American Samoa, the Vice President also reviewed the troops comprised of Reserve companies who are part of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the U.S. Army based in Hawaii. Headquartered at Ft. Shafter in Honolulu, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry is the only infantry unit in the entire United States Army Reserve. Samoan soldiers who are part of the battalion have fought and served bravely in conflicts from Desert Storm to Afghanistan and Iraq, and others, since the companies were relocated to American Samoa in 1980.

Madam Speaker, American Samoa takes particular pride that Vice President PENCE was able to celebrate with us the 109th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army Reserves, which just happened to line up perfectly with his visit.

While the Vice President's journey was well covered by international and

domestic media, most outlets outside of the Pacific failed to report a significant statement he made, which I have called the Pago Pago Declaration. This important statement made on our soil was well noted and well received in the Pacific Islands.

Specifically, the Vice President spoke of the challenges the U.S. faces in Asia and the Pacific and confirmed to the audience assembled that, as quoted by Radio New Zealand International and broadcast region-wide: "We're here to stay, we're here for peace, we're here for the prosperity of all of our people, and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa."

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this Radio New Zealand International story.

[From Radio New Zealand, Apr. 25, 2017]

AMERICAN SAMOANS TOLD US IS COMMITTED TO REGIONAL PEACE

The United States Vice President has told American Samoans that his country is committed to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mike Pence made a brief stopover in the US territory yesterday where he was greeted by Governor Lobo Matalasi Moliga his wife, the Lieutenant-Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Chief Justice Michael Kruse, House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale'a and congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen.

Secret Service agents restricted access and only a few leaders were allowed to shake hands with the Vice-President. Governor Lobo apologized to traditional leaders who weren't able to conduct a traditional ceremony because of security restrictions. Mr. Pence, who was with his wife Karen, thanked American Samoans for their support and prayers.

He said it was an important time for the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Pence said he was in the territory on behalf of President Donald Trump to symbolize the US commitment to the area.

"We're here to stay, we're here for peace, we're here for the prosperity of all of our people and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa," he said.

□ 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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Mrs. RADEWAGEN. The People's Republic of China and other external powers are gaining visibility and influence in the region, including the neighboring Independent State of Samoa. Due to the new influence of foreign interests in the region, members of American Samoa's territorial legislature, the Fono, just days prior to the Vice President's arrival, expressed to me, during my appearance before a special joint session, their concern about the rise of foreign influences in the region. I am certain the Pago Pago Declaration will help to allay their concerns and will be welcome in capitals across the Pacific from Port Moresby to Papeete, Tahiti.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, I anticipate that the Pago Pago Declaration will be a component of the evolving Trump doctrine that is under development by the administration, which I expect will be fully articulated when the U.S. participates in the Port Moresby APEC summit in November of next year.

Madam Speaker, we, in American Samoa, recognize the strategic importance of our location in the center of the Pacific Ocean and are proud of the contributions we make to our Nation's security.

As always, we stand ready to do our part to advance the spirit of the Vice President's Pago Pago Declaration, which I expect will have a long lasting and positive effect on the region.

I want to, once again, thank the Vice President and the administration for their attention to the Pacific territories, a region that too often goes unnoticed in Washington.

McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, one of America's signature child nutrition and food security programs.

Established by Congress in the 2002 farm bill, over the past 15 years, it has provided life-saving meals in school settings to over 14 million of the world's most vulnerable children.

Administered by the Department of Agriculture, this bipartisan-supported program provides U.S. and international organizations with U.S. commodities, grants, and technical assistance to strengthen child nutrition and education.

It receives a modest \$201 million each year. Regrettably, the President's FY 2018 budget would cruelly eliminate the entire program.

McGovern-Dole is named after two Senators who worked in a bipartisan way during their long tenures in the Senate to end hunger, especially

among children in the United States and around the world. They continued their work together after leaving the Senate. They are models for what can be accomplished when Members of Congress actually put petty partisanship aside and make the welfare of children and families become your number one priority. And even though George McGovern is no longer with us, Bob Dole continues to champion this cause.

On March 20, in a statement to *The Washington Post*, he said: "Eliminating the McGovern-Dole program would have a disastrous effect on the planet's most vulnerable children. Without a reliable source of nutrition, these children face a lifetime of stunted physical and mental development and unrealized opportunity. This global school meals program remains one of the proudest achievements of my lifetime. It embodies the very best of America's values. Saving this program means saving lives. It's as simple as that."

Madam Speaker, working through partners like the U.N. World Food Programme, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Save the Children, Counterpart International, and many more, McGovern-Dole has reduced the incidence of hunger among school-aged children. It has increased school enrollments and attendance. It has increased the support of families and communities for education, especially for girls. It is a proven success.

Instead of eliminating it, we should be strengthening and expanding it. Now, I have had the privilege of visiting some of these programs around the world. In Colombia, I visited a program in Soacha, on the outskirts of Bogotá. On barren hillsides, surrounded by shanties housing thousands of internally displaced families, children were receiving a school breakfast and lunch. Mothers and grandmothers were training as cooks preparing the meals. Clearly visible in the cafeteria were USAID bags of grains, beans, and lentils.

One mother came up to me and said: "Please thank the American people when you go back home. I couldn't feed my children. I couldn't send them to school. I was afraid my son was going to join the paramilitaries or guerrillas just to get food. Now my son is getting fed and he is staying in school. Please tell the American people thank you."

In Nairobi, Kenya, in the largest slum in the world, I went to a McGovern-Dole breakfast and lunch program. The school principal showed me how they store and prepare U.S. commodities that feed her students and how all the students know that this program is from the American people. I ate porridge made from yellow peas grown by American farmers. The kids dug into this food like it was manna from Heaven. One little boy would take a bite and then scoop a small amount out of his bowl and put it in his pockets. He was taking food home to his younger siblings who don't get anything to eat.

Outside of Nairobi in Maasai country is a school for girls where McGovern-Dole provides a hot lunch. I helped cook and serve the meal of U.S. bulgur wheat and locally grown vegetables. One student told me how grateful she was to be able to go to school every day and eat every day. She grew up in a village over 100 miles away.

When she was 12, her father told her that she had to marry a much older man. She refused. Her father ordered her to go to her uncle's house and get his machete and bring it back to him. She knew that he was going to kill her.

She ran away, walking alone for days, because she had heard of this school. And when I met her, she was 15, healthy, and well fed, and at the top of her class. I knew I was talking to someone who will some day be a leader in her country. In the very best way, she will never forget us.

And when we take food away from children, families, and schools, those communities will never forget us either. They won't forget that we took away their children's future. I wouldn't forget it if it were my child. Would you?

Madam Speaker, there are many ways to advance U.S. national security and economic interests abroad. Education and child nutrition are very much at the top of the list. So I urge my colleagues to visit McGovern-Dole programs when they travel abroad and to support continued funding of the program in FY 2018. It is yet another way that we can all work together to end hunger now.

ATTEMPT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, this morning, the American public woke up to news accounts that the Trump White House and Republican leadership in Congress is going to again this week make another attempt to try and repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Republican Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY gave a speech in Texas a few days ago on Saturday where he promised that this is the week that the Republicans will repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

For those of us who were in the Chamber here just a short time ago in March when the first attempt was made to butcher the healthcare system with the so-called American Health Care Act, what we saw was the culmination of a process that was hyperpartisan starting in January in which the committees rushed through a piece of legislation without even giving the Congressional Budget Office a chance to analyze the cost and the impact in terms of the uninsured rate in America.

And then finally, as the hour approached when a vote was scheduled to

take place, the facts caught up with the legislation. The Congressional Budget Office determined that 24 million Americans would lose their health coverage, that the Medicare trust fund would be weakened because of the raid on the trust fund by reducing a Medicare tax surcharge for millionaires; and it would reduce the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 4 years, a program that is revered and probably the most popular insurance program in America in which, again, collection of healthcare stakeholders from all across the country, the American Hospital Association, the nurses, the doctors, the March of Dimes all came out universally opposing this measure.

And finally, the Quinnipiac poll showed what the American public thought of this bill. They came out with a poll that showed only 17 percent support in the American public for the Republican healthcare bill. Again, the Quinnipiac poll comes from my State, the State of Connecticut, and was very supportive and friendly in terms of its polling data in terms of the Trump campaign last year, so it is certainly not a partisan poll.

So why are we revisiting a measure which was so universally denounced and despised? Well, there has been a new amendment that has been offered in an attempt, again, within the confines of the Republican majority, to try and win votes to pass this bill this week.

Again, they have a majority with roughly 240 seats. They need only 216, and that is really what has been the focus of the majority leader in terms of trying to line up a vote this week.

The amendment, the so-called MacArthur amendment, again, revisits some of the issues, which, again, some of the more conservative members of the Freedom Caucus were complaining about, and what it proposes to do is basically give States the ability to wipe out essential health benefits—in other words, the basic patient protections that were built into the health insurance law 8 years ago.

□ 1215

It does nothing in terms of trying to ameliorate the impact of the Medicaid cuts, which is the program for low-income and working Americans, which the ACA expanded and has done great work in terms of reducing the ranks of the uninsured. That is the measure which we now have before us this week.

Well, once again, the stakeholders who have to live with this have weighed in with their thoughts. This is what the American Hospital Association said:

“The amendment proposed this week would dramatically worsen the bill.”

Again, it is a bill that was so unpopular, poorly drafted, and not ready for prime time that the Speaker pulled it from a vote on March 24.

The American Hospital Association, which is the largest trade association for hospitals in America—they rep-

resent thousands of hospitals—have said that, in fact, this makes it even worse.

By weakening the essential health benefits—and I come from Connecticut. We know a little bit about insurance in that State. What we know is, if insurance companies can redesign healthcare plans, the essential health benefits will be the first to go. The ones that will be the first to go will be maternity care, behavioral health, and emergency coverage because those are the most expensive items that are included within the health insurance plan. I would say, well, that is true. On the other hand, those are the essential benefits that families need.

Look at what has happened since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2007 to infant mortality, for example: because of the Medicaid coverage, 57 percent of the live births in America are now women—and particularly young women—who get the benefit of Medicaid coverage. So they get prenatal care. They get the help that they need to make sure that a healthy delivery occurs. That is why infant mortality rates have been coming down in this country since the Affordable Care Act passed.

To allow States to eliminate or give insurance companies the ability to eliminate maternity care, again, is just going exactly in the opposite direction. A goal all Americans support is to reduce infant mortality and to promote healthy live births.

The American Hospital Association was joined by the American Medical Association, which is the largest trade group which represents physicians all across the country, and came out against the bill.

America should listen. The people in Congress should listen. We should not take up this bill. It is time for a true bipartisan process to improve America's healthcare bill.

Let's not vote on this this week. Let's listen to the American people.

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 17 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. WEBER of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the au-

thority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, enlightened by Your eternal spirit.

We thank You for Your gifts of patience and perseverance that have led to agreements on the funding of government. It is difficult work calling for true leadership. Continue to bless those Members who continue to work toward solutions that redound to the benefit of our Nation.

Please send Your spirit of peace upon those areas of our world where conflicts continue and threaten to break out. May all Your children learn to live in peace.

And may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

APPRECIATING CAPTAIN TAYLOR FORCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Captain Taylor Force of South Carolina was a graduate of West Point, a veteran who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he was an MBA candidate at Vanderbilt University when he was, at random, stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist in March of 2016 as he innocently departed from a bus as a tourist in Israel. He was only 28 years old.

His merciless murder at the hands of Palestinian terrorists is even more gruesome because of the Palestinian Authority program of paying out hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorists and their families in support of mass murder.

I am grateful to support the Taylor Force Act, legislation that restricts all aid from the Palestinian Authority until the Secretary of State confirms they do not provide financial rewards for terrorists in their murderous activities. I appreciate the leadership of

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, and Congressman LEE ZELDIN for introducing the Taylor Force Act.

As Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas travels to Washington to meet with President Trump on Wednesday, I am confident that President Trump will show his commitment to ending financial rewards for terrorists.

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

AMERICANS LOOK TO THE STARS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, human history is punctuated by explorations of the world around us. We are a nation of explorers. It is part of our national identity, and finding new planets and looking for evidence of life beyond our Earth fascinates most Americans.

The discovery of life elsewhere in the universe would alter our priorities for space exploration and affect how we view ourselves.

In just the last two decades, we have confirmed the existence of 3,000 exoplanets, planets outside our solar system. Probing the cosmos encourages the next generation of young students to pursue careers in astronomy, astrophysics, and astrobiology.

We must continue to look at the Stars. They offer us a glimpse of the past and hope for the future.

HONORING BRAZOSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Brazoswood High School band was awarded one of the highest honors: the Sudler Flag of Honor by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

The Sudler Flag of Honor is given to distinguished high school bands that have demonstrated particularly high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years. There is a 7-year minimum process, with countless documents, recordings, letters of recommendation, and performances at not only the State but the local level as well.

Of the nearly 50 Sudler Flags that have been awarded since 1983, almost 30 of them have gone to Texas high school bands. The Brazoswood Buccaneer Band is the most recent addition to this prestigious group, and they are the only band to have been awarded the Sudler Flag in 2017.

My sincere congratulations to the students; the alumni; the band; Mr. Brian Casey, the band director; and the

principal, Rita Pintavalle, on this outstanding achievement.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 910) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 910

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 "Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. SAFE HARBOR FOR INVESTMENT FUND RESEARCH.

(a) *EXPANSION OF THE SAFE HARBOR.*—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall propose, and not later than the end of the 270-day period beginning on such date, the Commission shall adopt, upon such terms, conditions, or requirements as the Commission may determine necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, and for the promotion of capital formation, revisions to section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide that a covered investment fund research report that is published or distributed by a broker or dealer—

(1) shall be deemed, for purposes of sections 2(a)(10) and 5(c) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(10), 77e(c)), not to constitute an offer for sale or an offer to sell a security that is the subject of an offering pursuant to a registration statement that is effective, even if the broker or dealer is participating or will participate in the registered offering of the covered investment fund's securities; and

(2) shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provisions, for purposes of the Commission's rules and regulations under the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization.

(b) *IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE HARBOR.*—In implementing the safe harbor pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) not, in the case of a covered investment fund with a class of securities in substantially continuous distribution, condition the safe harbor on whether the broker's or dealer's publication or distribution of a covered investment fund research report constitutes such broker's or dealer's initiation or reinitiation of research coverage on such covered investment fund or its securities;

(2) not—
(A) require the covered investment fund to have been registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–1 et seq.) or subject to the reporting requirements of section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)) for any period exceeding the period of time referenced under paragraph (a)(1)(i)(A)(1) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(B) impose a minimum float provision exceeding that referenced in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(A)(1)(i) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(3) provide that a self-regulatory organization may not maintain or enforce any rule that would—

(A) prohibit the ability of a member to publish or distribute a covered investment fund research report solely because the member is also participating in a registered offering or other distribution of any securities of such covered investment fund; or

(B) prohibit the ability of a member to participate in a registered offering or other distribution of securities of a covered investment fund solely because the member has published or distributed a covered investment fund research report about such covered investment fund or its securities; and

(4) provide that a covered investment fund research report shall not be subject to section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–24(b)) or the rules and regulations thereunder, except that such report may still be subject to such section and the rules and regulations thereunder to the extent that it is otherwise not subject to the content standards in the rules of any self-regulatory organization related to research reports, including those contained in the rules governing communications with the public regarding investment companies or substantially similar standards.

(c) *RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way limiting—

(1) the applicability of the antifraud or antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws and rules adopted thereunder to a covered investment fund research report, including section 17 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77g), section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–33), and sections 9 and 10 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78i, 78j); or

(2) the authority of any self-regulatory organization to examine or supervise a member's practices in connection with such member's publication or distribution of a covered investment fund research report for compliance with applicable provisions of the Federal securities laws or self-regulatory organization rules related to research reports, including those contained in rules governing communications with the public, or to require the filing of communications with the public the purpose of which is not to provide research and analysis of covered investment funds.

(d) *INTERIM EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFE HARBOR.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—From and after the 270-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, if the Commission has not adopted revisions to section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as required by subsection (a), and until such time as the Commission has done so, a broker or dealer distributing or publishing a covered investment fund research report after such date shall be able to rely on the provisions of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, and the broker or dealer's publication of such report shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, if the covered investment fund that is the subject of such report satisfies the reporting history requirements (without regard to Form S-3 or Form F-3 eligibility) and minimum float provisions of such subsections for purposes of the Commission's rules and regulations under the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization, as if revised and implemented in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) *STATUS OF COVERED INVESTMENT FUND.*—After such period and until the Commission has adopted revisions to section 230.139 and FINRA has revised rule 2210, for purposes of subsection (c)(7)(O) of such rule, a covered investment fund shall be deemed to be a security that is listed on a national securities exchange and that is not subject to section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-24(b)).

(3) *COVERED INVESTMENT FUNDS COMMUNICATIONS.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), communications that concern only covered investment funds that fall within the scope of section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-24(b)) shall not be required to be filed with FINRA.

(B) *EXCEPTION.*—FINRA may require the filing of communications with the public if the purpose of those communications is not to provide research and analysis of covered investment funds.

(c) *DEFINITIONS.*—For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term “covered investment fund research report” means a research report published or distributed by a broker or dealer about a covered investment fund or any securities issued by the covered investment fund, but not including a research report to the extent that it is published or distributed by the covered investment fund or any affiliate of the covered investment fund.

(2) The term “covered investment fund” means—

(A) an investment company registered under, or that has filed an election to be treated as a business development company under, the Investment Company Act of 1940 and that has filed a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 for the public offering of a class of its securities, which registration statement has been declared effective by the Commission; and

(B) a trust or other person—

(i) issuing securities in an offering registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and which class of securities is listed for trading on a national securities exchange;

(ii) the assets of which consist primarily of commodities, currencies, or derivative instruments that reference commodities or currencies, or interests in the foregoing; and

(iii) that provides in its registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 that a class of its securities are purchased or redeemed, subject to conditions or limitations, for a ratable share of its assets.

(3) The term “FINRA” means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

(4) The term “research report” has the meaning given that term under section 2(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(3)), except that such term shall not include an oral communication.

(5) The term “self-regulatory organization” has the meaning given to that term under section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of H.R. 910, the Fair Access to Investment Research Act, which I have had the pleasure of working on with my friend from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) in this Congress and now-Governor Carney in the last Congress.

Mr. FOSTER, I had the pleasure to speak with Governor Carney this weekend and tell him of our great collaboration in this Congress, and he sends his warmest regards for the process.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a common-sense, bipartisan, bicameral effort to increase access to research and information on exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, an important and rapidly growing investment vehicle in the United States and around the world.

Before coming to Congress, I worked in the banking and investment industry for nearly three decades, and I have witnessed firsthand the explosive growth in the ETF industry. Since I started my latest firm in the late 1990s, I have seen the exchange-traded fund selection grow from about 100 funds with about \$100 billion in total assets to today's 2,000 funds with about \$2.4 trillion in investment assets.

However, despite this rapid growth in the popularity in the ETF market and their increasing importance to retail investors, most broker-dealers do not publish research on ETFs due to anomalies in our securities laws and regulations.

The SEC has implemented safe harbors for research in support of various asset classes, including listed stocks, corporate debt, and closed-ended funds, and Congress has provided explicit safe harbors for research related to the offerings of emerging growth company securities. However, despite their similarities to those asset classes, ETFs do not benefit from similar safe harbors.

An ETF safe harbor is also not a novel concept to the Commission, and there is bipartisan consensus that this is something that the SEC should have done years ago. In addition to providing feedback on this bill for the past 3 years, the SEC, itself, has looked at granting a safe harbor for ETF re-

search on multiple occasions but never quite got around to it.

The Fair Access to Investment Research Act simply directs the SEC to provide a safe harbor for research reports that cover ETFs so that these reports are not considered offers under the Federal securities laws. Because ETFs are continuously brought to the market, a safe harbor is necessary for broker-dealers to publish this research.

It also holds the SEC accountable to Congress by providing an interim safe harbor if the SEC does not act within a 270-day period, which would be effective until the Commission finalizes its rules in this area.

Providing this safe harbor will increase access to investment information for consumers and improve the efficiency of our capital markets. Given the importance of ETFs to the market and to the 6 million or so U.S. households that hold ETFs, steps to facilitate research and allow investors access to this useful information are long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, we want more information for our consumers about how their investments work, how an ETF fits into their investment portfolio, how it is consistent with their time horizon and their goals, and what the transaction costs are. What are the unique strategies around that ETF? Does it, in fact, use leverage or not? All these kinds of details will help our consumers know more about these products.

As our Capital Markets Subcommittee ranking member, Mrs. MALONEY, stated so eloquently at our markup earlier this year: It makes sense to get more research out there on ETFs. After all, if you are concerned with the growth of ETFs, then the last thing you want is less research.

True it is.

This bill in no way undermines or eliminates any investor protections in the Federal securities laws or the SEC's ability to oversee the registration and sale of ETF securities explicitly, containing a rule of construction that the applicability of the antifraud and antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws are in no way limited by this legislation.

This safe harbor would also only apply to bona fide research and in no way limits FINRA, the Federal securities regulators, and the SEC's ability to regulate sales and marketing literature that is used for ETFs.

I would like to thank, again, my colleagues, Mr. FOSTER and Governor Carney, Senators HELLER and PETERS for their work in the United States Senate, my chairman, the ranking member, and Mrs. MALONEY and the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this pro-consumer, common-sense proposal to make more information available to America's investing households.

In March, H.R. 910 passed the House Financial Services Committee by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 56-2,

and a similar version of this legislation passed the House in the last Congress by a vote of 411-6.

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

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

I thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for his years of hard bipartisan work that went into this bill.

I am proud to support this bill today because I believe that it will strengthen the abilities of investors to make informed decisions. This legislation would add transparency in the financial markets that will ultimately benefit consumers.

Exchange-traded funds are valuable and popular tools for investors to get exposure to diversified risk through a single security with low costs. My wife and I use them ourselves. They are, however, like the iPhone, very simple on the outside but incredibly complicated products on the inside. They often can be thoroughly understood only by those with the background and the time to analyze the way the ETF is constructed, as well as each of the underlying securities and the sectors they are targeting.

Retail investors and retirement savers often do not have this time and often do not have the expertise in the markets. High-quality research can help them make informed decisions about which ETFs to invest in, equipping them to make decisions on how to diversify across different sectors and indices.

ETFs are continuously issued, so they present unique potential risks to underwriting broker-dealers under the Federal securities laws.

Generally, the Federal securities laws prohibit a broker-dealer from participating in a securities offering from publishing research 15 days before or 30 days after the issuance for very good reason. This is to prevent research that could hype the security ahead of the offering or try to puff its price afterwards.

ETF pricing, however, reflects a wide variety of data across many issuers and classes of securities. Because they are continuously brought to market, it is necessary to provide a clarification in the law that research is permitted to be published continuously, because they are also continually traded on the exchanges. The antifraud provisions of the securities laws will still apply.

To be clear, this bill does not vitiate any rights of investors or responsibilities of broker dealers with respect to the accuracy and truthfulness of statements. Specifically, section 2(c)(1) provides that the antifraud and antimanipulation provisions of the securities laws are not limited by anything in this bill. Moreover, this applies only to bona fide research, and FINRA can require sales materials to be posted to the public.

Section 2(c)(2) preserves the powers of the SROs to oversee all of the prac-

tices of broker-dealers, including the publication of these reports.

Lastly, the bill provides for a statutory safe harbor should the Commission not be able to promulgate a rule in the 270-day period established by the bill. This statutory safe harbor is only available to research on funds that have been reported to the SEC for the last year, ensuring that it is true to the purpose of the bill to provide research to be used by investors for existing securities.

Statutory safe harbors exist elsewhere in the Federal securities laws, most notably section 4(a)(2) of the 1933 Act. A statutory private offering exemption can be perfected without relying on regulation D. In practice, though, that does not happen, and I trust that the SEC will prescribe an appropriate set of rules consistent with section 2(a) of this bill so that the regulatory safe harbor will be effective.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for his comments and his constructive help on designing and completing the legislative process on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, an integral process of getting this bill completed was certainly by our staff, and I want to pay particular attention to Holli Heiles of my personal staff, who, this day, leaves the world of the personal staff and moves to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investments of the House Financial Services Committee. I want to thank Holli Heiles for her outstanding work on this bill and for her outstanding work on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas, as well as to congratulate her on her move to the committee.

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and now-Governor Carney, as well, for working on this bill over the past years. I look forward to it being signed into law.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work done together on this bill. I don't have any other speakers on this particular bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 910, 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. HILL. 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 pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1645

SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1312) to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1312

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 "Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS FORUM ON CAPITAL FORMATION.

Section 503 of the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 80c-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) The Commission shall—

"(1) review the findings and recommendations of the forum; and

"(2) each time the forum submits a finding or recommendation to the Commission, promptly issue a public statement—

"(A) assessing the finding or recommendation of the forum; and

"(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Commission intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.

"(f) FORUM FINDINGS.—Nothing in this section shall require the Commission to agree to or act upon any finding or recommendation of the forum."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1312, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to respond to the recommendations from its annual forum on small business capital formation.

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, and, according to the SBA, have provided 55 percent of all jobs and 66 percent of all net new jobs over the past 40 years. These small

businesses are intimately familiar with their businesses and the regulatory environment, and who better to provide insights to regulators and lawmakers on how to best provide and promote capital formation and remove unnecessary regulatory barriers and burdens?

Nearly four decades ago, in 1980, Congress recognized the importance of our small-business owners and their having a voice and sharing their recommendations with the SEC, and Congress required the SEC to conduct an annual forum to review the current status and issues surrounding small business capital formation. But while the Commission is required to conduct this forum, its obligation goes no further.

Though the SEC often praises this small business forum and the insights and recommendations from the small business community, the SEC has no obligation to respond to or act on the forum's recommendations and findings and has rarely done so. For example, many of the provisions of the JOBS Act came from recommendations from the small business forum, but it was Congress who had to move forward with these ideas, not the SEC.

This commonsense bill introduced by Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. VARGAS would require the SEC to formally respond to these recommendations just like they legally have to acknowledge and respond to recommendations from their Investor Advisory Committee. Similar legislation passed the House last Congress by a nearly unanimous vote, and, earlier this year, H.R. 1312 passed the House Financial Services Committee by a unanimous vote.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I thank, again, my good friends from Maine and from California for their hard work on this bipartisan bill that ensures the voice of our small business community is heard.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1312, a commonsense measure that will ensure the SEC responds to recommendations that will reduce barriers to small businesses' capital formation. Access to capital is the lifeblood of every business. As ranking member of the House Small Business Committee, I hear this on a near daily basis. It is as true today as it was 65 years ago when Congress created the Small Business Administration.

Since that time, Congress has taken steps to better understand the needs of our small businesses and find ways to improve access to capital. In 1980, we created the Government-Business Forum on Small Business Capital Formation at the SEC. This body helps policymakers learn about unnecessary impediments to small business capital formation and address how they can be eliminated or reduced. However, the SEC isn't currently required to act on the forum's recommendations.

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act changes the SEC's obligation by requiring the Commission to respond to the recommendations made by the annual Government-Business Forum. This bill is modeled after a similar provision in the Dodd-Frank Act requiring the SEC to respond to the recommendation of the Investor Advisory Committee.

However, there are important distinctions between the recommendations of the IAC and the forum. Specifically, the IAC is limited by statute to 23 members. By contrast, the forum is open to all public and private participants. As a result, the IAC has only issued 12 recommendations since its first meeting in 2012. During the same timeframe, the forum issued 98 recommendations.

While I understand the desire to have the SEC respond to each of the forum's recommendations, I would remind my colleagues that the SEC has the important duty to police our financial markets. Therefore, I hope my colleagues will remember these additional duties and set appropriate funding levels for the SEC to ensure agency resources are not being diverted from its crucial examination and enforcement activities.

I would like to thank Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. VARGAS for crafting this bipartisan bill to ensure that the voice of our small business community is heard.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate the gentlewoman from New York's views and her helpful work on this legislation.

We have lost over the last 20 years some 50 percent of our public companies. When I was getting out of college, one of the great dreams in business would be that you could have a company that was so successful that you could go public. Over the years, obviously that process has made it more and more difficult for our entrepreneurs to pursue their dream of a public company.

So what better way to make sure their voice about our rules, our laws, the process of being public, and the process of registering and disclosing is all made in a way that does not discourage our entrepreneurs and our small-business people from pursuing that dream of going public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), my distinguished friend who serves on the House Financial Services Committee and is a gentleman who is a voice for small business at every meeting of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I appreciate it very much. I do want to thank the Congresswoman from New York and also Congressman JUAN VARGAS of California who stepped up as the lead cosponsor of this legislation.

As Mr. HILL mentioned a moment ago, about two-thirds of our new jobs in the last decade have been created by small business. This is the bloodstream of our economy, and certainly in Maine, Mr. Speaker, where we are a State and a district of small businesses, this is very particular to my interest.

Those of us who have run small businesses know that one of the biggest challenges you have is how to borrow money—access to capital—because unless you have access to capital and unless you have the funds you need to grow and expand, you can't create new opportunities and new jobs for our kids and our grandkids. So access to capital is absolutely critical when it comes to growing our economy and providing more opportunities for the next generation.

As has already been said today, the SEC holds these annual forums where small-business leaders who are on the ground creating jobs and those in the public sector get together, and they review and explore new ways and better ways to change the regulations and the rules we have in this country such that access to capital is enhanced.

What better idea; what more common sense do we need than to have a bill, H.R. 1312, that I am very proud to sponsor, that requires the SEC to assess every recommendation by this forum every year—not necessarily act upon it, but take it off the shelf, assess it, and determine if action should be taken.

I want to thank all the folks who have participated in our forums over the years, both the public and the private sector, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all my colleagues in this House, Republicans and Democrats, please support H.R. 1312.

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

Mr. HILL. 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 Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1312, 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. HILL. 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.

U.S. TERRITORIES INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1366) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1366

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF EXEMPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SAFE HARBOR.—With respect to a company that is exempt under section 6(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(a)(1)) on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) EXTENSION OF SAFE HARBOR.—The Securities and Exchange Commission, by rule and regulation upon its own motion, or by order upon application, may conditionally or unconditionally, under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(c)), further delay the effective date for a company described in paragraph (2) for a maximum of 3 years following the initial 3-year period if, before the end of the initial 3-year period, the Commission determines that such a rule, regulation, motion, or order is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act, and I thank my friend and colleague from New York for her exceptional efforts in designing and bringing this bill to us today.

H.R. 1366 repeals a provision in the Investment Company Act of 1940 that exempts investment companies in Puerto Rico, Guam, and other U.S. territories from registering with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the SEC, so that they have to play by the same rules as their mainland counterparts.

When Congress first enacted the Investment Company Act in the 1940s, a nonregistration exemption for investment companies in the noncontiguous territories made a lot of sense as it was extremely expensive and difficult for

the SEC to send staff to travel to these territories and inspect the local companies. In fact, Mr. Speaker, back in the 1940s, Eastern Air Lines bragged of their 6-hour-and-10-minute service between New York and San Juan one way for \$1,700 in today's money. So, in fact, it was challenging to get to the territories.

But with all the significant advances in technology and travel, these logistical barriers no longer exist. As such, this bill repeals this archaic exemption and provides a reasonable and safe harbor to allow those companies currently subject to the exemption to transition.

Similar legislation passed the House in the last Congress by voice vote, and, earlier this year, H.R. 1366 passed the House Financial Services Committee by a unanimous vote.

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

□ 1700

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1366, legislation that will close a loophole in our securities laws and better protect the investors and retirees of the U.S. territories.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 governs investment companies, such as mutual funds, closed-end funds, and ETFs. Its purpose is to protect investors and provide oversight of these companies. In doing so, it regulates various transactions among affiliates, sets leverage limits, outlines record-keeping requirements, and describes how securities may be redeemed.

These matters sound technical, but they provide fundamental protections to most U.S. investors. I say “most” because, due to a historical artifact, all funds located in and sold only to residents of U.S. territories are exempted.

The reason is, in 1940, territories like Puerto Rico were considered to be too distant from Washington, D.C. Obviously, modern air travel makes that a nonissue today, as regulators routinely travel to Hawaii and Alaska to conduct oversight. In addition, many of these financial products are now traded electronically, truly eliminating the need to visit in person.

The consequence of exemption falls squarely on the residents of U.S. territories. Investment companies can sell products to them without the important oversight, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest requirements to which mainland companies are subject.

As a result, many investors and retirees have been subject to investment losses, some resulting from behavior that would have been prohibited if the 1940 act applied to the island's investment companies.

To address this matter, H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act, applies the 1940 act to currently exempt investment companies that are

located, organized in, and sold to residents of these territories.

I would like to point out that this bill is identical to legislation that passed the House last Congress twice with overwhelming bipartisan support.

In order to permit investment companies to comply with the legislation, it provides for a 3-year compliance period, with an option, at the approval of the SEC, for an additional 3 years. This time period balances the need to bring the investor protections of the 1940 act to the territories with enough time for affected entities to fully understand and comply with the 1940 act.

It is important to note that if investment companies need further relief from any specific requirement of the 1940 act, they are able to request such relief through the SEC under existing law. Earlier this year, past SEC Chair White testified that the exemption should be removed.

I want to thank Congressman DUFFY and Congressman MACARTHUR, two of my colleagues from the Puerto Rico Task Force, for cosponsoring this bill. I also want to thank Puerto Rico's new Member of Congress, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for cosponsoring it as well; and Senators HATCH and MENENDEZ, who have put forward a companion bill in the Senate. All of this support means a great deal to me and to those investors on the island.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for working with me throughout the last 2 years in a highly productive manner. We met with stakeholders, heard their concerns, and fine-tuned the bill. I am confident we developed an approach that would apply the 1940 act in a manner that is sensitive to investors and investment companies alike.

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

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

I want to thank my friend from New York for her leadership and her voice on behalf of Puerto Rico and the islands in this regard, and for her long public service and particular leadership in this time of important change in Puerto Rico.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to take an all-too-quick trip to San Juan to assess the current economic conditions on the island. It was too brief in that it was less than a day, which seems completely unfair to any visitor to the beautiful island of Puerto Rico.

I want to thank my host, our distinguished delegate from the Commonwealth, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN for hosting me on that visit. I thank her for her cosponsorship on this bill and her leadership on the island here in Congress. We are grateful to have her as a new Member of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act. I am a cosponsor of this bill, and I thank Representative VELÁZQUEZ for introducing H.R. 1366 and the Members who have joined in supporting this important legislation.

The U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act will close a loophole in the current law. By passing this bill, Congress will bring to Puerto Rico's investors the same protections enjoyed by investors residing in the 50 States.

Under current law, investment funds that are located and organized in the U.S. territories and sell to only residents of the territories are exempted from the Investment Company Act of 1940, which governs entities, such as mutual and exchange-traded funds.

Because of this exemption, investment companies located in the U.S. territories can sell their products to territory residents while not being subjected to the oversight, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest requirements that govern investment companies located in the States. As a result, investors residing in Puerto Rico and the other territories have experienced investment losses, some of which likely would have been prohibited had the 1940 act applied to the territories.

For example, UBS operating in Puerto Rico served as an adviser to Puerto Rico's Employees Retirement System and, in 2008, led the underwriting of a \$2.9 billion bond issue for the government pension agency. UBS then placed \$1.7 billion of those funds into UBS-managed mutual funds that UBS then sold exclusively to customers on the island. This investment would have been forbidden by the Investment Company Act if these funds were sold in the States.

The Puerto Rican investors holding these bonds have suffered massive losses and are claiming that UBS did not properly disclose the risks of these funds. On the island, hundreds of these customers have filed arbitration claims with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and seek more than \$1.1 billion in damages. UBS continues to lose these cases for failing its fiduciary responsibilities.

Today's vote on H.R. 1366 will help end such outrageous investment abuse and gives Congress another opportunity to align the laws governing Puerto Rico and the other territories with the laws governing the 50 States.

H.R. 1366 will remove the territories' exemption and make the Investment Company Act of 1940 apply to companies that are located, organized in, and sell to residents of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act.

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

Closing the U.S. territories loophole in the Investment Company Act of 1940 will give millions of investors and re-

tirees—mostly in Puerto Rico—the peace of mind that their hard-earned money will receive the same level of protection afforded to those on the mainland.

I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and all the cosponsors for their hard work in bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1366.

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.

FOLLOW THE RULES ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 657) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 657

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 "Follow the Rules Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION BASED ON ORDERING INDIVIDUAL TO VIOLATE RULE OR REGULATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subparagraph (D) of section 2302(b)(9) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, rule, or regulation” after “law”.

(b) *TECHNICAL CORRECTION.*—Such subparagraph is further amended by striking “for”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 657, the Follow the Rules Act, introduced by Congressman SEAN DUFFY of Wisconsin.

Less than 1 month ago marked the 28th anniversary of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989. That bill was a landmark accomplishment establishing enforcement mechanisms to protect those who help identify waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. It also protects those who, in good conscience, refuse orders that could violate the law.

Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit considered the case of Dr. Timothy Rainey. Dr. Rainey, an employee of the State Department, refused an order to violate the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Dr. Rainey's supervisors subsequently took away his responsibilities as a contracting officer representative. He argued it was because of his refusal to obey the order. Thus, the Federal Circuit considered whether Federal managers can retaliate against employees who refuse to obey an order that would violate a government rule or regulation rather than a statute.

Unfortunately, the Federal Circuit has a record of misinterpreting the law on whistleblowers. That is precisely what happened here. The court held such employees were not protected. Ironically, the court relied on a significant 2015 Supreme Court decision, *DHS v. MacLean*, which reaffirmed the protections of the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The Federal Circuit's decision puts Federal employees in an impossible situation. It forces them to choose between following their superior's orders or following the agency's rules or regulations. In many ways, an agency's rules and regulations are the standing orders of the head of the agency.

My colleague, Representative DUFFY, introduced the Follow the Rules Act to fix this problem. H.R. 657 makes clear that employees are protected from retaliation for disobeying orders that would violate an agency rule or regulation. Refusing to obey such orders is exactly the type of action for which Federal employees should be protected from retaliation.

This legislation has bipartisan, bicameral support. It passed the House by voice vote near the end of the last Congress.

□ 1715

I hope that this legislation will be signed into law this Congress and Federal employees will be protected in trying to do the right thing. I thank Representative DUFFY for his leadership on this issue.

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

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

When we are going to pass a bill on a bipartisan basis, it might be useful to acknowledge the bill has a Democratic cosponsor. I am proud to be the lead cosponsor with Congressman DUFFY on the Follow the Rules Act—in fact, he asked me to play that role—and I rise

clearly in strong support of the legislation which will protect, critically, whistleblowers who disclose waste, fraud, and abuse.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative DUFFY, for working with me in a bipartisan way on this important bill. We initially introduced the bill together in the 114th Congress, and it passed the House without opposition. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act. Hopefully, this Congress we will be able to persuade the Senate to enact this important protection.

This bill would clarify that, under the Whistleblower Protection Act, an employee who refuses to obey an order that would require the employee to violate a law, rule, or regulation is protected.

Congressman DUFFY and I introduced the bill to address a misinterpretation of the Whistleblower Protection Act by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in the case of *Rainey v. MSPB* in 2016, as my colleague from Kentucky suggested. In that case, a contracting officer, Dr. Timothy Rainey, was ordered by his supervisor to tell a contractor to rehire a terminated subcontractor. Dr. Rainey, in principle, refused because carrying out that order would have required him to violate the Federal Acquisition Regulation by improperly interfering with the contractor's personnel decisions and requiring the contractor to act contrary to the terms of the contract.

What reward did Dr. Rainey get for doing the right thing? He was stripped of his duties and given a negative performance rating.

The Federal circuit, God knoweth how, held that an employee who refuses to obey an order is protected only if the order would violate a law, a statute, but not if the order would violate a rule or a regulation. Talk about looking at angels on the head of a pin. The court's ruling was contrary, clearly, to the Whistleblower Protection Act and the intent of this Congress.

In enacting the Whistleblower Protection Act, Congress clearly intended that protections granted to government employees who blow the whistle on waste, fraud, and abuse be construed broadly. We clearly had in mind not only laws, but rules and regulations as well.

Congress and the American people rely on whistleblowers to make government efficient, honest, and effective, and we in Congress want to support those people. As a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rely on whistleblowers to help us with our oversight and reform work. Without them, rooting out mismanagement, abuse, and corruption would be very difficult.

The underlying principle of the Whistleblower Protection Act is that employees should be protected from retaliation if they do the right thing, even if it means disobeying orders from their superiors. Given the Trump administration's attacks on the Federal

workforce, it is especially important now, more than ever, for this Congress to uphold whistleblower protections for all of our public servants.

We cannot tolerate the issuance of gag orders to silence dissent, and we cannot permit the firing of agency employees who have differing political views from our own or who might object to administration actions. If the administration and my colleagues are serious about draining the swamp, we need to do all we can to ensure that Federal employees are allowed to perform their jobs free from political pressure to violate laws, rules, and regulations.

Protecting whistleblowers has been and should continue to be a bipartisan—indeed, nonpartisan—issue and something on which we can find common ground. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this important bipartisan legislation. I am proud to cosponsor it with my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, those of us in this institution talk about we are a country of laws. However, over time, more and more of the statements that we have to live by are not laws. They are rules and regulations. Therefore, when the Whistleblower Protection Act was passed in 1989, I am not sure at the time whether it was intended to cover rules and regulations, but, as a practical matter, I think Federal employees will run into problems in which they are asked to disobey rules and regulations even more than statutory laws themselves.

On June 7 of last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled in *Rainey v. Merit Systems Protection Board* that, while laws were covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act, rules and regulations were not, at least if you weren't a Federal employee.

Why is it relevant that we have to make up for the problems caused by this decision? Dr. Timothy Rainey was a State Department employee who, while serving as a contracting officer in 2013, was ordered by his superior to violate the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Dr. Rainey refused and was subsequently removed from his duties.

When Dr. Rainey invoked the right-to-disobey provision of the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board ruled the law only protected him from violating Federal laws, but such protections don't apply to rules or regulations. Dr. Rainey appealed the case, and the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Protection Board ruling and, in doing so, exposed a glaring inconsistency in the application of the act.

What does this mean? Federal whistleblowers play an important role in exposing mismanagement, the rampant mismanagement at Federal agencies,

and supporting the oversight work of Congress. Critical to them is the Whistleblower Protection Act which provides Federal workers with certain legal safeguards to disclose information that an employee reasonably believes evidences gross mismanagement, waste of funds, abuse of authority, or a violation of the law.

This ruling will take away the protections when they stand up to bad actors in the Federal workforce. In effect, this ruling will give permission to supervisors in positions of authority to force Federal workers to violate the rules and regulations that Congress, through law, directs the agencies implement.

Regardless of your opinion about certain rules, we should not leave, exposed, Federal workers who are just trying to follow the rules instead of obeying supervisors who want them to disobey the rules and regulations. The bipartisan Follow the Rules Act, which I am an original cosponsor of, will close this loophole created by the court's ruling and ensure that Federal employees have protections for refusing to violate the rules and regulations in addition to the law.

I ask support for this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend from Wisconsin. I think he laid out the case very well.

I think the ruling of the circuit court in many ways tells us about the perils of a very juridical view of what a statute is all about. To refuse to take into account context, history, legislative history, and congressional intent that is reflected often in the kind of debate we are having here on the floor I think is not in the spirit of trying to interpret the laws as Congress intends them. Sooner or later I think Congress is going to have to address this kind of fundamentalist, originalist approach to laws that I think is nonsensical and leads to this kind of cherry-picking about what it was Congress intended to protect.

I agree with my friend from Wisconsin. I think this bill is necessary because we have to clarify the law, apparently, for the courts and protect people like Dr. Rainey.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 657, 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. COMER. 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.

400 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1242) to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1242

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 “400 Years of African-American History Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies, at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the 400 Years of African-American History Commission established by section 3(a).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission, to be known as the “400 Years of African-American History Commission”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **COMPOSITION.**—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(A) three members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of Governors, including the Governor of Virginia;

(B) six members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of civil rights organizations and historical organizations;

(C) one member shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relative to the historical and cultural resources related to the commemoration, to be appointed by the Secretary;

(D) two members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and

(E) three members shall be individuals who have an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to the commemoration, appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of Members of Congress.

(2) **TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each appointment of an initial member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **TERM; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **TERM.**—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) **PARTIAL TERM.**—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(C) **CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**—If a member of the Commission was appointed to the Commission as an employee of the National Park Service, and ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service, that member may continue to serve on the Commission for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date on which that member

ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Commission shall—

(1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States—

(A) appropriate for the commemoration;

(B) to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African-Americans since 1619;

(C) to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; and

(D) to educate the public about—

(i) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(ii) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(2) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand understanding and appreciation of—

(A) the significance of the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(3) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(4) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of—

(A) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(5) ensure that the commemoration provides a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs; and

(6) help ensure that the observances of the commemoration are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all individuals present at the arrival of Africans in the United States.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION MEETINGS.

(a) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(b) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet—

(1) at least three times each year; or

(2) at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(c) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(d) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—

(1) **ELECTION.**—The Commission shall elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(2) **ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(e) **VOTING.**—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

SEC. 5. COMMISSION POWERS.

(a) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other property for aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.

(b) **APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF ACTION.**—The Commission may authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(d) **PROCUREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act (except that a contract, lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission).

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The Commission may not purchase real property.

(e) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(f) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Commission may—

(1) provide grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 per grant to communities and nonprofit organizations for use in developing programs to assist in the commemoration;

(2) provide grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(3) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation other than the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), nominate an executive director to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(d) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) **MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.**—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(A) **DETAIL.**—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of an employee under subparagraph (A) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(2) **STATE EMPLOYEES.**—The Commission may—

(A) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State; and

(B) reimburse the State for services of detailed personnel.

(f) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(g) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(h) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Any reimbursement under this paragraph shall be credited to the appropriation, fund, or account used for paying the amounts reimbursed.

(i) **NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the National Park Service with respect to the commemoration.

SEC. 7. PLANS; REPORTS.

(a) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than July 1, 2020, the Commission shall complete and submit to Congress a final report that contains—

(1) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(2) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(3) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

(a) **DATE OF TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on July 1, 2020.

(b) **TRANSFER OF DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS.**—Before the date of termination specified in subsection (a), the Commission shall transfer all documents and materials of the Commission to the National Archives or another appropriate Federal entity.

SEC. 9. EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION.

All expenditures of the Commission shall be made solely from donated funds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1242, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, introduced by Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1242 establishes a historical commission commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in Virginia in 1619. The bill creates a commission to plan programs and activities in 2019 to recognize the arrival, influence, and historical importance of Africans in America.

Congress has previously established similar commissions to celebrate historical anniversaries. For example, there was a commission on the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, and the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine, Florida.

As we reach the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in Virginia, establishing this commission allows for the opportunity to acknowledge the horrible impact slavery has had in America. This is an opportunity to commemorate the resilience and contributions of African Americans in our country. While that chapter in our history is a painful one, this is a story that must be told to acknowledge how profoundly unrecognized our Nation would be without the contribution of African Americans.

The commission will work with State and local groups to coordinate the commemoration and public education. The commission will be funded by private donations, not taxpayer dollars, and will terminate shortly after the anniversary activities conclude. The bill authorizes the commission to provide grants to further the historical and cultural activities carried out in commemoration of the anniversary.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved this bill on March 28, 2017.

I thank Congressman SCOTT for his leadership on this legislation.

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

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1242, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Virginia, BOBBY SCOTT. Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia has introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

In the 400 years since the first Africans arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, African Americans have made an indelible contribution to our Nation. They have been pioneers in the arts and sciences. They have led the charge for civil rights and spoken out against injustice against anybody. They have also ascended to the highest level of politics, athletics, and business, and sacrificed for our country in every military engagement from the American Revolution to the present-day fight against terrorism.

African Americans have played a crucial role in the establishment and evolution of our Nation:

Crispus Attucks, a Black man, became the first casualty of the American Revolution in my hometown of

Boston when he confronted British soldiers in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

James Armistead, a slave who fed false information to the British, helped the Patriots' cause to secure victory in the Battle of Yorktown.

Abolitionists, from Sojourner Truth to Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman spoke out against slavery and fought to realize the meaning of Thomas Jefferson's founding creed that all men are created equal.

And African Americans helped our country awaken its collective consciousness during the epochal civil rights movement, with the courageous actions of so many from Rosa Parks in the Montgomery bus boycott to the persevering spirit of our colleague JOHN LEWIS and the Freedom Riders, and the bold vision, of course, of Martin Luther King, Jr., that "injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere."

The bill before us today would recognize those accomplishments while acknowledging the sorry, tragic history of slavery in America and the subsequent era of discrimination and economic deprivation after the Civil War. H.R. 1242 would establish a commission charged with celebrating the rich history of African Americans in the United States.

Along with States, community groups, and nonprofit organizations, the commission would plan and execute anniversary activities throughout the Nation and encourage the publication and distribution of scholarly research on African-American history.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1242.

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

□ 1730

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my friend and the author of this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1242, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, which was introduced earlier this year by Senators TIM KAINE, MARK WARNER, ROY BLUNT, and CORY BOOKER. I was proud to introduce the House version, which has the support of Representatives TAYLOR, RICHMOND, WITTMAN, BEYER, MCEACHIN, LEWIS, COMSTOCK, CONNOLLY, GRIFFITH, GOODLATTE, and many others.

I would like to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, Mr. COMER, and Mr. CONNOLLY for their assistance in bringing the bill to the floor today.

This bill would establish a commission to begin the planning of programs

and activities across our Nation to recognize the contributions of African Americans since their first arrival as African slaves in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619, almost 400 years ago.

Slavery was an abhorrent institution, but the history of Virginia and our Nation cannot be fully understood without first recognizing the role played by the slave trade. This institution was the foundation of the colonial and early American agricultural system. The 20 slaves who arrived at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, in 1619 were the first on record to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the English colonies.

This bill will establish a commission to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619. From enduring slavery to fighting in the Civil War, to working against the oppressive Jim Crow laws, to struggling through the civil rights movement, the rich history of African Americans in the United States and their contributions to our Nation began hundreds of years ago. Obviously, this history does not end there.

The commission established by this bill will be charged with the important task of planning, developing, and implementing a series of programs and activities throughout 2019 to tell the full story of African Americans over the last 400 years. This 15-member commission will include historical experts instead of politicians. Therefore, the true legacy of African Americans will be truthfully told.

It would be a great disservice not only to African Americans, but to all Americans, if we fail to appropriately recognize this important milestone in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee, Mr. COMER and Mr. CONNOLLY, for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend BOBBY SCOTT for his leadership. This is an incredible service, not only to my Commonwealth of Virginia and his, but, frankly, to all Americans. This isn't just an issue for African Americans or some subgroup. All of us are formed from our history, as we know from the popularity of the opening of the new African-American museum here in Washington, which is an incredible contribution, I think, to our Nation's culture and our discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1242, "400 Years of African-American History Commission Act", which establishes the 400 Years of African-American

History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

Through this bill, the commission must:

1. Plan programs to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States;
2. Encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities;
3. Assist states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration; and
4. Coordinate for the public scholarly research on the arrival of Africans in the United States and their contributions to this country.

The commission may provide:

1. Grants to communities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs;
2. Grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States; and
3. Technical assistance to states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

The commission must prepare a strategic plan and submit a final report to Congress that contains a summary of its activities, an accounting of its received and expended funds, and its recommendations.

The commission would submit a final report to the Congress and terminate on July 1, 2020.

H.R. 1242 would authorize the appropriation of the necessary amounts for those purposes.

The commission would consist of 15 members who would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1242 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028. Enacting H.R. 1242 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 1242 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

August of 2019 will mark 400 years since the first documented arrival of Africans who came to English America by way of Point Comfort, Va.

Not only is it appropriate to establish a commission that would recognize the contributions of African Americans, but it is historically significant to acknowledge that the "20 and odd" Africans (as it was recorded) were the first recorded group of Africans to be sold as involuntary laborers or indentured servants in the English colonies.

The commission would be charged with highlighting the resilience and contributions of African Americans, as well as acknowledging the painful impact that slavery and other atrocities have had on our nation.

African Americans have contributed to the economic, academic, social, cultural and moral well-being of this nation.

Could we claim America as the most innovative nation on earth without the invention of the modern traffic light, the perfection of the carbon filament or the use of the mathematics that propelled Apollo astronauts to the moon?

African-American culture is American culture, and African-American discoveries are

American discoveries. Without the accomplishments of African Americans, the United States could not boast the ingenuity and cultural richness that we cherish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1242, 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.

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

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1180, WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 5, 2017, THROUGH MAY 15, 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-106) on the resolution (H. Res. 299) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; providing for proceedings during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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. 910, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 1312, by the yeas and nays; and
- H.R. 657, by the yeas and nays.

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

FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 910) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 2, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 237]

YEAS—405

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

Lucas	Pocan	Smith (WA)
Luetkemeyer	Poe (TX)	Smucker
Lujan Grisham, M.	Poliquin	Soto
Luján, Ben Ray	Polis	Speier
Lynch	Posney	Stefanik
MacArthur	Price (NC)	Stewart
Maloney, Sean	Quigley	Stivers
Marchant	Raskin	Suozzi
Marshall	Ratcliffe	Swalwell (CA)
Massie	Reed	Takano
Mast	Reichert	Taylor
Matsui	Renacci	Tenney
McCarthy	Rice (NY)	Thompson (CA)
McCaul	Rice (SC)	Thompson (MS)
McClintock	Richmond	Thompson (PA)
McCollum	Roby	Thornberry
McEachin	Roe (TN)	Tiberi
McGovern	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
McHenry	Rogers (KY)	Titus
McKinley	Rokita	Tonko
McMorris	Rooney, Francis	Torres
Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Trott
McNerney	Rosen	Tsongas
McSally	Roskam	Turner
Meadows	Ross	Upton
Meehan	Rothfus	Valadao
Meeks	Rouzer	Vargas
Messer	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
Mitchell	Royce (CA)	Vela
Moolenaar	Ruiz	Velázquez
Mooney (WV)	Ruppersberger	Visclosky
Moore	Rush	Wagner
Moulton	Russell	Walberg
Mullin	Rutherford	Walden
Murphy (FL)	Sánchez	Walker
Murphy (PA)	Sanford	Walorski
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Walters, Mimi
Neal	Scalise	Walz
Noem	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Nolan	Schiff	Schultz
Norcross	Schneider	Waters, Maxine
Nunes	Schradner	Watson Coleman
O'Halleran	Schweikert	Weber (TX)
O'Rourke	Scott (VA)	Webster (FL)
Palazzo	Scott, Austin	Welch
Pallone	Scott, David	Wenstrup
Palmer	Sensenbrenner	Westerman
Panetta	Serrano	Williams
Pascrell	Sessions	Wilson (FL)
Paulsen	Sewell (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Payne	Shea-Porter	Wittman
Pearce	Sherman	Womack
Pelosi	Shimkus	Woodall
Perlmutter	Shuster	Yarmuth
Perry	Simpson	Yoder
Peters	Sinema	Yoho
Peterson	Sires	Young (AK)
Pingree	Smith (NE)	Young (IA)
Pittenger	Smith (NJ)	Young (IA)
	Smith (TX)	Zeldin

NAYS—2

Huffman

Nadler

NOT VOTING—23

Amodei	Hurd	Olson
Arrington	Jones	Rohrabacher
Brady (PA)	Kildee	Rooney, Thomas J.
Chaffetz	Lawrence	
Conyers	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
Cuellar	Malone, Carolyn B.	Slaughter
Deutch	Marino	Smith (MO)
Duncan (TN)	Meng	
Hultgren	Newhouse	

□ 1854

Mr. HUFFMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea” on rollcall No. 237.

SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1312) to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) 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 406, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 238]

YEAS—406

Abraham	Cleaver	Frankel (FL)
Adams	Clyburn	Franks (AZ)
Aderholt	Coffman	Frelinghuysen
Aguilar	Cohen	Fudge
Allen	Cole	Gabbard
Amash	Collins (GA)	Gaetz
Arrington	Collins (NY)	Gallagher
Babin	Comer	Gallego
Bacon	Comstock	Garamendi
Banks (IN)	Conaway	Garrett
Barletta	Connolly	Gibbs
Barr	Cook	Gohmert
Barragán	Cooper	Gonzalez (TX)
Barton	Correa	Goodlatte
Bass	Costa	Gosar
Beatty	Costello (PA)	Gottheimer
Bera	Courtney	Gowdy
Bergman	Cramer	Granger
Beyer	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Biggs	Crist	Graves (LA)
Bilirakis	Crowley	Graves (MO)
Bishop (GA)	Culberson	Green, Al
Bishop (MI)	Cummings	Green, Gene
Bishop (UT)	Curbelo (FL)	Griffith
Black	Davidson	Grijalva
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Grothman
Blum	Davis, Danny	Guthrie
Blumenauer	Davis, Rodney	Gutiérrez
Blunt Rochester	DeFazio	Hanabusa
Bonamici	DeGette	Harper
Bost	Delaney	Harris
Boyle, Brendan F.	DeLauro	Hartzler
Brady (TX)	DeBene	Hastings
Brat	Demings	Heck
Bridenstine	Denham	Hensarling
Brooks (AL)	Dent	Herrera Beutler
Brooks (IN)	DeSantis	Hice, Jody B.
Brown (MD)	DeSaulnier	Higgins (LA)
Brownley (CA)	DesJarlais	Higgins (NY)
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Hill
Buck	Dingell	Himes
Bucshon	Doggett	Holding
Budd	Donovan	Hollingsworth
Burgess	Doyle, Michael F.	Hoyer
Bustos	Duffy	Hudson
Butterfield	Duncan (SC)	Huffman
Byrne	Dunn	Huizenga
Calvert	Ellison	Hunter
Capuano	Emmer	Issa
Carbajal	Engel	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Eshoo	Jayapal
Carson (IN)	Espallat	Jeffries
Carter (GA)	Estes (KS)	Jenkins (KS)
Carter (TX)	Esty (CT)	Jenkins (WV)
Cartwright	Evans	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Farenthold	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)	Faso	Johnson (OH)
Chabot	Ferguson	Johnson, E. B.
Cheney	Fitzpatrick	Johnson, Sam
Chu, Judy	Fleischmann	Jordan
Ciçilline	Flores	Joyce (OH)
Clark (MA)	Fortenberry	Katko
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Keating
Clay	Fox	Kelly (IL)

Kelly (MS) Murphy (FL) Sensenbrenner
 Kelly (PA) Murphy (PA) Serrano
 Kennedy Nadler Sessions
 Khanna Napolitano Sewell (AL)
 Kihuen Neal Shea-Porter
 Kilmer Noem Sherman
 Kind Nolan Shimkus
 King (IA) Norcross Shuster
 King (NY) Nunes Simpson
 Kinzinger O'Halleran Sinema
 Knight O'Rourke Sires
 Krishnamoorthi Palazzo Smith (NE)
 Kuster (NH) Pallone Smith (NJ)
 Kustoff (TN) Palmer Smith (TX)
 Labrador Panetta Smith (WA)
 LaHood Pascrell Smucker
 LaMalfa Paulsen Soto
 Lamborn Payne Speier
 Lance Pearce Stefanik
 Langevin Pelosi Stewart
 Larsen (WA) Perlmutter Stivers
 Larson (CT) Perry Suozzi
 Latta Peters Swallow (CA)
 Lawson (FL) Peterson Takano
 Lee Pingree Taylor
 Levin Pittenger Tenney
 Lewis (GA) Pocan Thompson (CA)
 Lewis (MN) Poe (TX) Thompson (MS)
 Lieu, Ted Poliquin Thompson (PA)
 Lipinski Polls Thornberry
 LoBiondo Posey Tiberi
 Loeb sack Price (NC) Tipton
 Lofgren Quigley Titus
 Long Raskin Tonko
 Loudermilk Ratcliffe Torres
 Love Reed Trott
 Lowenthal Reichert Tsongas
 Lowey Renacci Turner
 Lucas Rice (NY) Upton
 Luetkemeyer Rice (SC) Valadao
 Lujan Grisham, Richmond Vargas
 M. Roby Veasey
 Luján, Ben Ray Roe (TN) Vela
 Lynch Rogers (AL) Velázquez
 Maloney, Sean Rogers (KY) Visclosky
 Marchant Rokita Wagner
 Marshall Rooney, Francis Walberg
 Massie Ros-Lehtinen Walden
 Mast Rosen Walorski
 Matsui Roskam Walters, Mimi
 McCarthy Ross Walz
 McCaul Rothfus Wasserman
 McClintock Rouzer Schultz
 McCollum Roybal-Allard Waters, Maxine
 McEachin Royce (CA) Watson Coleman
 McGovern Ruiz Weber (TX)
 McHenry Ruppertsberger Webster (FL)
 McKinley Rush Welch
 McMorris Russell Wenstrup
 Rodgers Rutherford Westerman
 McNerney Sánchez Williams
 McSally Sanford Wilson (FL)
 Meadows Sarbanes Wilson (SC)
 Meehan Scalise Wittman
 Meeks Schakowsky Womack
 Messer Schiff Woodall
 Mitchell Schneider Yarmuth
 Moolenaar Schrader Yoder
 Mooney (WV) Schweikert Yoho
 Moore Scott (VA) Young (AK)
 Moulton Scott, Austin Young (IA)
 Mullin Scott, David Zeldin

NOT VOTING—24

Amodei Jones Olson
 Brady (PA) Kildee Rohrabacher
 Chaffetz Lawrence Rooney, Thomas
 Conyers MacArthur J.
 Cuellar Maloney, Ryan (OH)
 Deutch Carolyn B. Slaughter
 Duncan (TN) Marino Smith (MO)
 Hultgren Meng Walker
 Hurd Newhouse

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FOLLOW THE RULES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 657) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) 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 407, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 239]

YEAS—407

Abraham Collins (GA) Gibbs
 Adams Collins (NY) Gohmert
 Aderholt Comer Gonzalez (TX)
 Aguilar Comstock Goodlatte
 Allen Conaway Gosar
 Amash Connolly Gottheimer
 Arrington Cook Gowdy
 Babin Cooper Granger
 Bacon Correa Graves (GA)
 Banks (IN) Costa Graves (LA)
 Barletta Costello (PA) Graves (MO)
 Barr Courtney Green, Al
 Barragán Cramer Green, Gene
 Barton Crawford Griffith
 Bass Crist Grijalva
 Beatty Crowley Grothman
 Bera Culberson Guthrie
 Bergman Cummings Gutiérrez
 Beyer Curbelo (FL) Hanabusa
 Biggs Davidson Harper
 Bilirakis Davis (CA) Harris
 Bishop (GA) Davis, Danny Hartzog
 Bishop (MI) Davis, Rodney Hastings
 Bishop (UT) DeFazio Heck
 Black DeGette Hensarling
 Blackburn Delaney Herrera Beutler
 Blum DeLauro Hice, Jody B.
 Blumenauer DelBene Higgins (LA)
 Blunt Rochester Demings Higgins (NY)
 Bonamici Denham Hill
 Bost Dent Himes
 Boyle, Brendan DeSantis Holding
 F. DeSaunier Hollingsworth
 Brady (TX) DesJarlais Hoyer
 Brat Diaz-Balart Hudson
 Bridenstine Dingell Huffman
 Brooks (AL) Doggett Huizenga
 Brooks (IN) Donovan Hunter
 Brown (MD) Doyle, Michael Issa
 Brownley (CA) F. Jackson Lee
 Buchanan Duffy Jayapal
 Buck Duncan (SC) Jeffries
 Bucshon Dunn Jenkins (KS)
 Budd Ellison Jenkins (WV)
 Burgess Emmer Johnson (GA)
 Bustos Engel Johnson (LA)
 Butterfield Eshoo Johnson (OH)
 Byrne Espallat Johnson, E. B.
 Calvert Estes (KS) Johnson, Sam
 Capuano Esty (CT) Jordan
 Carbajal Evans Joyce (OH)
 Cárdenas Farenthold Kaptur
 Carson (IN) Faso Katko
 Carter (GA) Ferguson Keating
 Carter (TX) Fitzpatrick Kelly (IL)
 Cartwright Fleischmann Kelly (MS)
 Castor (FL) Flores Kelly (PA)
 Castro (TX) Fortenberry Kennedy
 Chabot Foster Khanna
 Cheney Foyx Kihuen
 Chu, Judy Frankel (FL) Kilmer
 Cicilline Franks (AZ) Kind
 Clark (MA) Frelinghuysen King (IA)
 Clarke (NY) Fudge King (NY)
 Clay Gabbard Kinzinger
 Cleaver Gaetz Knight
 Clyburn Gallagher Krishnamoorthi
 Coffman Gallego Kuster (NH)
 Cohen Garamendi Kustoff (TN)
 Cole Garrett Labrador

LaHood O'Halleran Sherman
 LaMalfa O'Rourke Shimkus
 Lamborn Palazzo Shuster
 Lance Pallone Simpson
 Langevin Palmer Sinema
 Larsen (WA) Panetta Sires
 Larson (CT) Pascrell Smith (NE)
 Latta Paulsen Smith (NJ)
 Lawrence Payne Smith (TX)
 Lawson (FL) Pearce Smith (WA)
 Lee Pelosi Smucker
 Levin Perlmutter Soto
 Lewis (GA) Perry Speier
 Lewis (MN) Peters Stefanik
 Lieu, Ted Peterson Stewert
 Lipinski Pingree Stivers
 LoBiondo Pittenger Suozzi
 Loeb sack Pocan Swallow (CA)
 Lofgren Poe (TX) Takano
 Long Poliquin Taylor
 Loudermilk Polls Tenney
 Love Posey Thompson (CA)
 Lowenthal Price (NC) Thompson (MS)
 Lowey Quigley Thompson (PA)
 Lucas Raskin Thornberry
 Luetkemeyer Ratcliffe Tiberi
 Lujan Grisham, Reed Titus
 M. Reichert Tonko
 Luján, Ben Ray Renacci Torres
 Lynch Rice (NY) Trott
 MacArthur Rice (SC) Tsongas
 Maloney, Sean Richmond Turner
 Marchant Roby Upton
 Marshall Roe (TN) Valadao
 Massie Rogers (AL) Vargas
 Mast Rogers (KY) Veasey
 Matsui Rokita Vela
 McCarthy Rooney, Francis Velázquez
 McCaul Ros-Lehtinen Visclosky
 McClintock Rosen Wagner
 McCollum Roskam Walden
 McEachin Ross Walker
 McGovern Rothfus Walorski
 McHenry Rouzer Walters, Mimi
 McKinley Roybal-Allard Walz
 McMorris Royce (CA) Wasserman
 Rodgers Rodgers Ruppertsberger
 McNerney Ruppertsberger Schultz
 McSally Rush Waters, Maxine
 Meadows Russell Watson Coleman
 Meehan Rutherford Weber (TX)
 Meeks Sánchez Webster (FL)
 Messer Sanford Welch
 Mitchell Sarbanes Wenstrup
 Moolenaar Scalise Westerman
 Mooney (WV) Schakowsky Williams
 Moore Schiff Wilson (FL)
 Moulton Schneider Wilson (SC)
 Mullin Schrader Wittman
 Murphy (FL) Schweikert Womack
 Murphy (PA) Scott (VA) Woodall
 Nadler Scott, Austin Yarmuth
 Napolitano Scott, David Yoder
 Neal Sensenbrenner Yoho
 Noem Serrano Young (AK)
 Nolan Sessions Young (IA)
 Norcross Sewell (AL) Zeldin
 Nunes Shea-Porter

NOT VOTING—23

Amodei Jones Rooney, Thomas
 Brady (PA) Kildee J.
 Chaffetz Maloney, Ryan (OH)
 Conyers Carolyn B. Slaughter
 Cuellar Marino Smith (MO)
 Deutch Meng Tipton
 Duncan (TN) Newhouse Walberg
 Hultgren Olson
 Hurd Rohrabacher

□ 1911

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 1, I was delayed in my travels back to Washington due to a delayed flight.

If I had been present, I would have voted: "Yea," on rollcall 237, passage of H.R. 910—Fair Access to Investment Research Act of

2017; “Yea,” on rollcall 238, passage of H.R. 1312—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act; and “Yea,” on rollcall 239, passage of H.R. 657—Follow the Rules Act.

RECOGNIZING MEG DALY

(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, I rise to congratulate Meg Daly, who is the founder of The Underline, a wonderful 10-mile linear park and urban trail in my congressional district that will serve to connect hundreds of Americans across Miami-Dade County through safe, alternative methods of transportation.

In 2013, Meg had an unfortunate accident that broke both of her arms. Since she couldn't drive herself to attend physical therapy, she took the Metrorail near her home and walked underneath the train tracks to reach her destination. That is when Meg took notice of the underutilized land right below the Metrorail and envisioned its transformative potential for community mobility, positive economic impact, and enhanced quality of life.

The Underline counts with overwhelming support across Miami-Dade, providing for a safe and healthy space for our community members to express themselves. From free yoga classes to artistic festivals to projects to restore Miami's urban green space, each day The Underline is getting closer to becoming what Meg has envisioned.

Congratulations to one of our community's leaders, Meg Daly.

□ 1915

DISABILITY DISCHARGE OF PARENT PLUS LOANS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the PLUS Loan Disability Forgiveness Act, a bill to relieve the burden of student loan debt on parents whose children become permanently disabled. While most student loans are forgiven if a student becomes totally and permanently disabled, parent PLUS loans are not.

It is simply wrong that a parent struggling with a child's disability is not afforded the same loan forgiveness as other borrowers. My bill would extend disability discharge to parent PLUS loans. It would allow families to focus on healing, not servicing debt. It would help lighten the \$1.4 trillion owed by student borrowers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these parents, who are just trying to help their children succeed.

MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN LIBYA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after the United States toppled the Government of Libya, the nation became a failed state, one that is a brothel of slavery. Fleeing persecution from terrorists and vast famine, west Africans hand their life savings over to drivers who will take them to Niger, then off to Europe. But these refugees are labor trafficked as slaves to Libya instead. They are bound to the slave block and sold at the auction of slavery.

The slave drivers force them to work inside private prisons for little or no food. Meanwhile, the slave masters demand ransoms from the families. If the families don't pay the ransom, the refugees are sold again to larger prisons and the demand doubles. If the ransom is never paid, the slaves are eventually murdered.

Mr. Speaker, human slavery still exists in north Africa, and it is a scourge on humanity. But the United States should be very careful about taking out a regime like it did in Libya without understanding the long-term consequences like what happened in Libya.

And that is just the way it is.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LEGACY

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important parts of President Obama's legacy is the recognition that Americans should not be discriminated against based on pre-existing conditions. This principle was enshrined in law by the Affordable Care Act, and now millions of Americans across the political spectrum support these vital protections. Even yesterday, President Trump, an avowed opponent of the Affordable Care Act, stated unequivocally that he was opposed to discrimination based on preexisting conditions.

The bill under consideration by this House, the American Health Care Act, does not represent that same bipartisan principle. My colleagues are advancing a measure that would let States turn back the clock for millions of Americans and begin that discrimination again.

Today, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill for the sake of all those it would harm. For the sake of anyone who has survived cancer, battled diabetes, or was simply born a woman, I urge you, vote “no.”

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK

(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 National Charter Schools Week and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the very first charter school.

With nearly 3 million students attending public charter schools across the country, 43 States, and the District of Columbia, it is the fastest growing choice option in public education. Minnesota is a leader in developing new innovative ways to educate our students and was the very first State to allow charter schools. Today, Minnesota has 164 charter schools that serve about 57,000 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade. Our State usually ranks among the top in having charter school friendly laws and developing high quality and independent charter school options.

As co-chair of the Charter School Caucus, I believe it is important that we do continue to create and develop this educational option. America will continue to lead the world in innovation and ideas if our students receive the best education possible from early childhood all the way through graduate school, and that means ensuring a child's ZIP Code does not determine the outcome of their education and the quality of their education.

TELL ME IT ISN'T SO

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a few of us were at the United Nations this morning and this afternoon, and what we heard most was the importance of empowering women in developing countries who have experienced violence, sexual violence. Tell me it isn't so that the President of the United States has discontinued Let Girls Learn, fostered and supported by Mrs. Obama, which is an important key element of the Peace Corps, which is attempting to help these girls learn and empower them.

Tell me it isn't so that the President of the United States, not recognizing the Constitution and freedom of speech, is trying to expand or change the libel laws that if you don't like what they say about you as a politician, you can undermine and you can charge First Amendment privilege, First Amendment press, and others with a violation of those laws.

Tell me it isn't so that America is going back on her values and her commitment to helping people around the world, particularly vulnerable women and children, and, of course, denigrating the First Amendment and the freedom of the press. Tell me it isn't so.

FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKERS

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1180, the

Working Families Flexibility Act, introduced by my friend, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY). The House will be considering the bill later this week to give private sector employees the same flexibility offered to many local, State, and Federal Government workers that have had it for many years now.

The legislation will give employees the option of choosing to receive compensatory time off from their employers instead of overtime wages. It does not change the 40-hour workweek, and it does not weaken employee protections. We are simply giving American workers more choice.

The bill does not allow for employees to coerce anyone into choosing one option over another. It would be a voluntary decision made between the employer and the employee. Everyone needs flexibility in their schedule to balance between work and personal time, and we should be giving American workers the option to choose what is most important to them: overtime wages or time off. It should be their decision, not the government's.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BROKEN PROMISES

(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, add job creation and infrastructure to the list of President Trump's broken promises. After 102 days in office, the so-called "greatest jobs President that God ever created" has failed to present a single job or infrastructure bill.

At the same time, his slash-and-burn budget would cut investments in job growth and infrastructure, imposing a \$2.4 billion cut on the U.S. Department of Transportation. Included in those cuts are drastic reductions of the Federal support for Amtrak and the outright elimination of the TIGER grant program.

The President's budget proposal also phases out the New Starts grant program, making critical infrastructure projects, including New Jersey and New York's Gateway Program ineligible for Federal funding needed to move forward.

As I speak, New Jersey rail commuters are probably facing massive delays and disruptions to their already nightmarish commute. President Trump's proposed cuts to vital Federal infrastructure programs will only make the problem worse. It has been an ugly 102 days for President Trump, and, unless he tackles jobs and infrastructure, as promised, it is going to get uglier.

HONORING MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on May 1 to recognize Silver Star Service Banner Day. Today is a day when we honor the service and sacrifice of our Active-Duty men and women from all branches of the service from all wars. Silver Star Service Banner Day started in 2007 and is sponsored by the Silver Star Families of America, which is dedicated to supporting and assisting wounded, ill, injured, and dying Active-Duty veterans and their families.

May is also National Military Appreciation Month. All month long, we have the opportunity to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who serve and have served. Our military men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty, and genuine love of country.

Personally, I am a proud military dad, as my son Logan continues to serve in the United States Army and my daughter-in-law, Carley, is now a veteran. Mr. Speaker, we are the home of the free because of the brave, and I want to thank all who serve this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, only two individuals have ever offered to willingly die for you. One was Jesus Christ and the other was the American soldier. One died for your soul, the other died for your freedom.

THANK YOU TO CONGRESSWOMAN ROS-LEHTINEN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the senior woman in the U.S. House, I wanted to say thank you to Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the senior Republican woman in the House, and to say with poignance I received her decision recently to retire from our beloved House.

ILEANA has been the first Cuban American elected to Congress, the first Latina elected to Congress, and the first Republican woman from Florida to be elected to Congress. She ably chaired the Committee on Foreign Affairs during her tenure, and there were many sessions when new Speakers were sworn in when she and I tabulated the results of that very important election.

I can remember when her children were born. I can always say she handled her service with great distinction, with great honor, with great humor, and she made friends on both sides of the aisle. I am glad that she is staying through the remainder of this session, but I must say that this House will lose a spark of brilliance and of wit when she chooses to leave us. I will also say that it has been a particular joy to serve with her because no matter what the issue, no matter what the time of year, no matter what the hour of day,

she always approached her position with great professionalism.

I regret her leaving, but I know her service has made a difference. For women across America, since she first arrived in 1989, our numbers have quintupled. We now have over 100 women who serve in this House with distinction, and she has helped blaze that path.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my opportunity to say more about her in the days ahead.

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ELECTRIC RELIABILITY AND FOREST PROTECTION

(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, with all of the wildfires we have in the West each year in the summer and the fall, did you know that if a utility has a right-of-way through Federal forests, through the Forest Service, it can still take months for these utilities to receive Forest Service approval to remove trees from transmission line rights-of-way even if the trees are already in contact with electric transmission lines?

We have had blackouts for large portions of several States that have happened from this; and the power lines, when they contact a tree, can start more wildfires even. Yet, still it takes months sometimes to get the Forest Service to approve the utilities to go out there and do a commonsense removal of these trees and other material.

Well, we have a remedy that passed last week in the Natural Resources Committee. Working with my colleague, Representative KURT SCHRADER from Oregon, we passed H.R. 1873 through committee to streamline the red tape to have preapproval for utilities to be able to do the necessary and commonsense work through these already existing transmission rights-of-way through our forests, preventing fire, preventing blackouts, and just good common sense.

GI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to highlight H.R. 758, the GI Internship Program Act. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation with my colleague from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER. If implemented, this bill would expand the use of the existing post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to include internships as an option in place of a traditional degree program.

The GI Internship Program Act would allow veterans to gain practical skills and work experience to help ease

their transition back into the civilian workforce. Under current law, the post-9/11 GI Bill only allocates money to veterans for traditional postsecondary education in the classroom, but for many veterans this is a path not meant for them.

For example, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were over 300,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs at the end of 2016. This gap could be filled by the veterans who use their post-9/11 GI benefits as a stipend to support them while receiving on-the-job training as high-skilled technical workers.

Further, these jobs can be filled at no additional cost to the employer because the cost would be covered by the preexisting GI Bill. This bill would allow businesses all over the U.S., both large and small, to meet their employment needs and help our skilled veterans to enter the civilian workforce.

As long as employers comply with the program and intend to hire the veterans after the internship is over, the veterans will continue to receive funding. This bill is a win for American job growth and, most importantly, a win for our veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

JOB FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUTHERFORD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

I would love to take credit for this idea. It is not my own. It is a bill that has been carried by other Members on several occasions. I have had the privilege to carry this bill the last few Congresses, and I am excited that we are going to debate this bill tomorrow and, God willing, have a vote on it.

The Working Families Flexibility Act is a simple amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act. The Fair Labor Standards Act has been the law of the land since 1938.

In 1985, the Fair Labor Standards Act was amended to allow compensatory time. That is paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime for public sector employees. But, oddly enough, private sector employees were left out of the equation.

This bill, H.R. 1180, simply provides that the private sector can have access

to compensatory time in lieu of cash wages for overtime. This doesn't eliminate overtime, but, rather, gives flexibility in the workplace for hardworking Americans to make a decision about how to use their time.

Every time an hourly wage employee works an hour of overtime, they would be eligible for an hour and a half of paid leave only if the employer first offers this as a benefit, but, most importantly, that the employee elects voluntarily to choose compensatory time over cash payments for overtime.

Congress cannot legislate another hour in the day, but what we can do is provide flexibility for hardworking moms and dads all over this country that may want to use their accrued overtime to coach a soccer game, help with an aging parent, take their child to the pediatrician, or, quite frankly, accrue the time to go on a mission trip somewhere. But this is an opportunity for us to provide this benefit for employees all over this country, like I said, hardworking men and women that just want flexibility.

It is voluntary. It must be done through a written agreement between the employer and the employee. But, most importantly, outside of being voluntary, the employee can opt out at any time. The employee can cash out, so to speak. There are cash-out provisions in this bill.

So if the arrangement between the employer and the employee is not working out, meaning the employee can't find the appropriate time to utilize the compensatory time, the employee can say: Do you know what? I would rather have my cash payments for overtime.

And within 30 days the employer must provide those cash payments that that employee has rightfully earned.

I just think this is a great opportunity for us to provide this benefit to so many folks out there who are just trying to balance their life and work, their children, their parents, and all of the things that come with that. As a working mom, I certainly can relate to all of the pushes and pulls that parents have on them in wanting to just provide for their family. Again, at the end of the day, this time belongs to that individual, therefore, he or she ought to be able to make a decision about how to use their time.

I have several Members who are here tonight that are going to speak on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER). I thank her so much for her willingness to speak on this issue.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for yielding, my good friend, MARTHA ROBY, who has been such a leader on this issue. It has been my great privilege to be a sponsor of the Working Families Flexibility Act in the 113th Congress, in the 114th Congress, and now again in the 115th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Working Families Flexibility Act of

2017, which will remove a Federal restriction on private sector employees who would like the option of comp time compensation in lieu of cash for their overtime work, the same as public sector employees. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a voluntary choice made by employees for cash overtime or for comp time.

The last thing our Federal Government should be doing is dictating how our small-business employees and entrepreneur compensation operates. Mr. Speaker, in November, Missourians and many Americans spoke loud and clear: it is time to get government out of the pocketbooks and off of the backs of hardworking Americans.

Americans are also desperate for job flexibility. I know I was also as a working mom when I worked at Ralston Purina in St. Louis, Missouri. They want to have a better balance of obligations of their day-to-day jobs while taking care of family and family matters.

The Working Families Flexibility Act will help us do just that. For the past 30 years, public sector employees have enjoyed the benefit of choosing voluntary paid time off, or comp time, instead of cash wages as compensation for working overtime hours. Private sector workers, who make up an incredibly large portion of our economy, should also reap this benefit. It is simply common sense.

Amending this overtime restriction through this legislation will help bring our workforce standards into the 21st century and allow our workers to do their jobs while still providing them with the voluntary flexibility to raise a family, pursue a college degree, care for aging parents, or tend to the day-to-day obligations that come their way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Working Families Flexibility Act, as it safeguards workers' time and wages, and protects their use of the comp time they have earned. Most importantly, as we work each day to get our economy back on track, this legislation empowers the American worker with more options and flexibility that will ultimately lead to a better quality of life.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for taking the time to speak on this bill. I appreciate her willingness to speak on behalf of the Working Families Flexibility Act. In doing so, she is speaking on behalf of so many hardworking American families.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure. And I must say, since we do have time, that her being a champion of this in the last three Congresses that I have had the pleasure of working—and my constituents in Missouri's Second District have sent me—it is wonderful to see a working mom like her, who is juggling all of those day-to-day needs, to stand up for private sector workers who deserve the same kinds of options and flexibility that our public service has enjoyed for some 30 years. So I thank her for being a

champion in this way. She is a wonderful legislator and a wonderful mother, too.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our majority leader. During my time in Congress, I don't know anyone who has been a stronger champion for finding ways to help families using conservative, commonsense ideas.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY is an amazing woman. She is a Congresswoman, she is an attorney, she is a wife, but, most importantly, she is a mother to two beautiful children. She has the same concerns and the same challenges that everybody else across this country has: Does she have enough time? Does she have the flexibility?

Just going through her own life, listening to her constituents, she came forth with this bill. She has worked hard to bring the Working Families Flexibility Act to this floor. She has done it before, and it passed in this House. One of the things I admire most about her is she does not give up. Because it is not about her; it is about the rest of America, and it is also about fairness.

In 1978, Congress granted this choice to government employees. Twenty-nine years later, it is past time we end the double standard and offer the same deals to workers in the private sector.

You can work and work overtime, but then you have the choice if you want to take that in pay, or would you like to have comp time?

Maybe there is a child sick, or maybe you have a family member that comes down with a disease, or another choice. You can go and spend time. You get to direct it. I think that is great policy. That is why government workers have it.

But why can't they have the same standards in the private sector?

Do you know what would happen?

Higher productivity. It would actually move America's economy.

Why?

Because the individual has choice.

Instead of being concerned and worried about something that is happening away that you need to be at, you put that time in. And instead of taking the money, you put it into flexibility.

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When we look at the future and think about the economy we want to have, yes, we want great employees; we want happy employees; we want employees with great productivity. But we don't want that just to happen in government. We want the private sector to have the same fairness that government has.

It is a great idea. But I will tell you, the work that Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY has done has led this charge. It has passed this House before, and we are going to find time in a very busy

week to have the flexibility to do this bill tomorrow because you know what? The rest of America is waiting for it.

I want to congratulate Congresswoman ROBY for her work on it, for not giving up, for listening to constituents across this country, but also for every working family in the private sector to let them have a choice to have the flexibility to be where they need to be after they put the overtime in. It is only fair, and, to me, it is the American way to solve a problem.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for bringing this bill to the floor and giving it the recognition and the time that it deserves. I appreciate the leader taking his time to be here and speak on behalf of the Working Families Flexibility Act.

I would like to turn now to my friend and my colleague, also from Missouri (VICKY HARTZLER). I just want to point out, though, as I move to her comments, we have to recognize that the workforce has changed. More than 70 percent of mothers today work outside of the home, and the gentlewoman here is certainly one of those who understands that as she has worked so hard and now Tiffany is about to graduate from high school. It seems like yesterday that we were bringing our babies to the floor together.

But 70 percent of mothers today work outside of the home. Fifty years ago, that number was less than 30 percent. So the workforce has changed tremendously, but our policies have not kept up with that change.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I appreciate the gentlewoman championing this issue, and we have brought our kids here and know the challenges of juggling work and family—and we are not alone. As you said, many, many families in this country are facing these same challenges, and that is why I am so excited about your bill and so proud to sponsor it and stand with you tonight.

The family is really the foundation of our country, and to have strong families, we need to be able to make ways to encourage them to be together, especially for those special, special events. I know there are many, many moms and dads out there working today who would love to be able to have the flexibility of the workplace where they can take off and spend some time with their kids at the soccer game, or when they get that phone call from the school that their child is sick, please come pick them up, to be able to have that flexibility to do that and to take them to the doctor or to stay home with them if they are sick. Then, as families age, many families need to be with their parent or need to go to the doctor with them.

These are just commonsense things to allow that flexibility where you could work some overtime and choose, instead of having the extra money, you could choose to be able to use that to

spend time with your family, those people that mean the most to you. That is just precious. It is priceless to be able to do that. And it is really sad now that, in our country, only half of the American workers have this option, and they are workers who work for the government. But yet, if you work for that small business in town or that manufacturer making a product and shipping it overseas, proud, made in U.S.A., sorry. Our government right now says, the Fair Labor Standards Act says, you don't get that option, but if you work for the Federal Government then you would, and that is just not fair.

So I applaud you for drafting this bill so that every American family would have the option to be able to spend time with those people that mean the most to them. It is just common sense. The time has well passed for us to pass this.

I just commend you for putting this forth again. I am very excited about this bill, proud to stand alongside you and look forward to what I believe should be—should be—a unanimous vote tomorrow because this is such a great bill.

So thank you so much for allowing me to come down and to share my support, and the people of the Fourth District of Missouri would just love to have this. Keep up the great work. We will look forward to bringing this across the finish line.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman and all of her comments and her support as a working mom who understands all of the pushes and pulls that so many American families face.

I want to spend a little bit of time, while I have the opportunity, to talk about some of the myths about the Working Families Flexibility Act. There is so much misinformation, false information that is out there about this bill.

Trust me, we are on social media responding to the information that is being put out there that is incorrect because we want to make sure people understand. This bill is not intended to hurt people. It is intended to help people and offer a much-needed benefit to provide people flexibility in the workforce.

The first myth I want to address is that this will result in employees working longer hours for less pay. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act safeguards workers' time and wages. Receiving paid time off or compensatory time for working overtime hours under this bill is completely voluntary. An employee who prefers to receive cash payments for overtime hours worked is always free to do so.

Employers and employees are required to complete a written comp time agreement, a voluntary written agreement, and an employee can withdraw from this agreement at any time and receive cash wages for accrued comp time.

Comp time is accrued at the same rate as overtime cash wages, so employees who work more than the 40-hour week will accrue paid time off at a rate time and a half for the overtime hours worked. Workers can cash out—meaning, say “I want the money instead of the time”—whenever they choose, and employers are required to provide those cash wages that that employee has accrued within 30 days of receiving that employee’s request.

Another myth is that the Working Families Flexibility Act will allow employers to control when workers use their comp time. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act protects employees’ use of the compensatory time that they have earned. The Working Families Flexibility Act allows workers to use their comp time whenever they choose as long as they provide reasonable notice and the leave is not overly disruptive.

The unduly disrupt provision included in H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act, is the same standard used today for public employees who are using this benefit to receive comp time, and this has worked for over 30 years. As my colleagues have already stated, this is a matter of fairness. If it is good enough for government employees, it should be good enough for private sector employees as well.

All existing labor enforcement remedies, including action by the Department of Labor, are available if a worker believes he or she has been unfairly treated. I can’t put enough emphasis on this, that the anticoercion, the anti-intimidation provisions that are currently a part of the law, of course, apply to the Working Families Flexibility Act. And it even promotes greater workplace flexibility while protecting the needs of the employer, but the employee is very protected from that type of behavior and coercion by the employer.

I have some other myths and facts that I am going to go over, but I see that the chairwoman of the Education and the Workforce Committee has joined us. I really appreciate the gentlewoman, the chairwoman, and all the work that she has done to support the working Families Flexibility Act.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ROBY for leading this Special Order, but a special thanks to you for introducing H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017. Everyone in the private sector, men and women, are grateful to you for doing this.

I may repeat some of the things that some of my colleagues have already said, but, Mr. Speaker, they bear repeating.

This proposal, this bill, is about freedom, flexibility, and fairness. Workers, not the Federal Government, should have the freedom to choose what is best for them and their families. Hard-

working men and women need more flexibility to balance work, life, and family, and there should be fair work-force policies that don’t put private sector employees at a disadvantage to those in the public sector.

Across the country, there are moms and dads who wish they had more flexibility to make their child’s baseball game or dance recital, students who can’t find enough time to study for college finals while working full time, and individuals who are struggling to care for an aging relative. There are many workers who want flexible work arrangements instead of rigid 9 to 5 schedules so they can attend to their personal needs.

This bill will improve the quality of life of many Americans by offering workers eligible for overtime pay a choice between paid time off and cash wages. Outdated Federal labor rules currently prohibit private sector workers from exercising this choice.

More than 30 years ago, Republicans and Democrats amended the law to give public sector workers the option of comp time. This was a positive step, but it created double standards. It is time to ease this double standard by leveling the playing field between private sector employees and government workers when it comes to workplace flexibility. That is exactly what this bill does. It is a commonsense idea that should receive the support of workers on both sides of the aisle.

As my colleague from Alabama said, the decision to choose comp time is completely voluntary and requires a written agreement between the worker and employer. Those who want to continue receiving cash wages as overtime pay are always free to do so. It also explicitly prohibits employers from coercing workers into electing comp time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is, again, about fairness, and it is so difficult for me to understand how Democrats would be opposed to that. We should have the same rules in the private sector as we do in the public sector. I think that Democrats have run out of excuses not to provide workers this choice. All we are doing here is giving a choice.

No one, Republican nor Democrat, should think they know what is best for individual workers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, when we vote on this bill this week, I hope all of our colleagues will come to their senses and see that they are discriminating against the private sector by denying them the opportunity to take their overtime as comp time and that they will vote with us.

Again, I thank my colleague from Alabama for her leadership on this Special Order, but particularly her willingness to introduce this bill and take the lead in promoting it.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, and again, I appreciate her leadership for moving this bill through committee and for getting it

ready through the Rules Committee so that we can be here on the floor tomorrow. Again, I appreciate her leadership on this and many, many other issues that she does on a daily basis to fight for Americans, in this case, Americans that are subject to the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act that would benefit from this amendment in the private sector.

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I want to go back. I have two more myths that I would like to address.

Here is the myth: the Working Families Flexibility Act will allow employers to force workers to take comp time instead of cash payments for overtime.

The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act prohibits worker coercion. The decision to use compensatory time is completely voluntary. An employee who prefers to receive cash payments for overtime hours worked is always free to do that. It explicitly prohibits an employer from directly or indirectly intimidating, threatening, or coercing; or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce an employee into taking or not taking compensatory time.

An employer who violates these anticoercion provisions will be liable to the affected employee for double damages which includes both the amount of the comp time and an equal amount in cash wages.

In addition to new provisions prohibiting coercion, H.R. 1180 ensures all existing enforcement remedies, including action by the Department of Labor, and are available to workers if an employer fails to pay cash wages for the overtime hours worked.

Myth: this bill is unnecessary because current law already allows for workplace flexibility. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act empowers workers with more options. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, private sector employees may only use paid time off during the same paid period in which it is accrued. Paid time off cannot be saved by the employee for future use outside of that pay period.

The law currently allows public sector employees to accrue comp time to be used at their discretion so long as reasonable notice is given and the leave does not unduly disrupt the workplace.

My amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Working Families Flexibility Act, H.R. 1180, provides private sector employees with comp time benefits similar to what is already available in the public sector.

Here is how it works: an hourly wage employee would be able to voluntarily enter into an agreement with their employer to put all of some of their accrued overtime towards paid time off instead of cash wages. A working dad could use the time-and-a-half overtime he has earned to take a paid hour and a half off of work. No employee, again, could ever be forced to take the paid

time off, just like no business would be forced to offer this benefit.

Upon introducing this bill 4 years ago, I heard from a very special lady named Karen DeLoach. She worked as a bookkeeper in an accounting firm of my hometown, Montgomery, Alabama. Like most in her line of work, Karen would put in many hours during the busy season and build up a lot of overtime. Karen once approached her boss and said: Well, can I accrue my overtime to use as paid leave rather than taking the cash payments? Because, see, Karen gave her time to serve on a mission trip in Nicaragua every summer, and she wanted to do so and go on her church's mission trip without interrupting her regular paycheck.

Montgomery, Alabama, is the State capital, and Karen had heard her State employee friends talk about how they swapped their overtime pay for comp time in their jobs. She never imagined that a similar arrangement at the private business at which she worked would be against the law, but that is what her boss informed her. He wanted to give it to her, but he couldn't under the law. To his credit, he wanted to offer it to her, but he wasn't about to break the law.

Karen's story isn't unique. As I have already referenced, just think of all the parents in this country with young kids or caring for elderly parents or a military family with one or both of the parents deployed or about to deploy. They need time to get ready to take care of their responsibilities.

So the Working Families Flexibility Act is not going to end or solve the debt crisis or fix ObamaCare or simplify the Tax Code. I am proud of our ongoing efforts here in Congress to repeal and replace ObamaCare, to put forth a tax policy that is fair, flatter, and simpler, and to continue to cut out wasteful spending. This bill doesn't solve those problems.

But the fact that we can't solve those problems overnight shouldn't stop us here in the House of Representatives from doing what we can do right now to help make life a little easier for working moms and dads. That is what the Working Families Flexibility Act does, helping Americans better balance the demands of family and work.

I want to thank all those Members who have come here to the floor tonight to speak on this bill. As a working mom myself, I certainly understand all too well how challenging it can be to balance our responsibilities.

Again, I have sponsored this bill this Congress, of course, and the past two before that. I have heard criticism from labor unions and their allies saying that this bill is somehow antiunion or antiworker. This is just simply untrue.

Of course, many in Big Labor will reflexively attack any proposal that would change a single word of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Ironically here, labor unions, see, they oppose this, but they themselves can and often do nego-

tiate similar agreements for their members already.

That seems a bit unfair. So it is okay for those who are members of unions to negotiate similar compensatory time arrangements, it is okay for those who work in the public sector under the law to utilize compensatory time, but it is just not good enough for the hourly wage employee in the private sector. That is more than unfair.

The legislation is completely voluntary for both the employer and the employee. It does not affect the 40-hour workweek or change the way overtime is calculated. It strengthens provisions for workers and increases penalties for abuse. It contains strong anticoercion provisions that would prohibit an employer from directly or indirectly trying to intimidate or coerce workers into taking comp time.

Workers have the option under the Working Families Flexibility Act to cash out at any time. If for some reason this agreement, this voluntary agreement, just isn't working out, an employee can always take the cash, no questions asked.

And, finally, for workers represented by a labor union, any comp time arrangement would have to be negotiated under this bill as part of the collective bargaining agreement, just as they already do.

Mr. Speaker, as I finish tonight, I just want to say again, as a mom, a working mom, a family where both parents work outside of the home, I certainly understand for some of us the time, our time, the time that has been accrued by an hourly wage employee, is more important than the cash wages. That may not be true for everybody. That remains in that the employee can determine what he or she wants to do with their time.

Again, I am grateful for the many people who have worked so hard on this bill over the years. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Alabama's Second District and to represent so many hardworking American families here tonight in this hour.

I look forward to the debate tomorrow here on the floor on this bill. I would urge all of my colleagues to please vote in favor of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

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

CELEBRATING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK AND SUCCESS ACADEMY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Charter Schools Week, I want to highlight my recent visit to Success Academy Harlem 1, which is 1 of 41 charter schools in the largest and highest performing public charter school network in New York City.

Success Academy current serves 14,000 students and has more than 16,000

families on its wait list. Founded in 2006, Harlem 1 is Success Academy's first school, and founder Eva Moskowitz served as its first principal.

With a focus on developing the whole child, Success Academy aims to make its schools joyful places of learning. I am here to tell you that these schools are getting results, and they are joyful.

Five of the top five schools in the State of New York in math and two of the top five schools in English are Success Academy schools.

Every student in every school deserves an excellent education, but unfortunately we are falling far short of that goal as a nation. Thankfully, innovative charter schools like Success Academy Harlem 1 are providing thousands of families with new hope and opportunity.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY AND ITS IMPACT ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this CBC Special Order hour with my esteemed colleague from Texas (Mr. VEASEY). For the next 60 minutes, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

This evening, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), my friend and colleague, I first thank him for his continued leadership of the caucus and on issues impacting Black America and other minority communities across this great Nation.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), my colleague, for joining me in chairing this evening's Special Order hour, and my other CBC colleagues who are joining us to speak on important issues.

Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to address the first 100 days of the Trump Presidency and its impact on minority communities like the district I represent and those of my fellow CBC colleagues. Specifically, we will highlight 100 actions taken by this administration in the last 100 days with less than positive impact to the communities we represent.

The President hails his first 100 days as the most successful in the history of the United States. These actions, however, do not spell success for low income and minority communities. Actions that, in turn, roll back Department of Justice protections designed to ensure police accountability; actions that threaten to further restrict voting rights and undermine the public education system; actions that threaten

access to quality affordable health care for millions of Americans, including children, seniors, and those with pre-existing medical conditions; actions that propose gutting programs, HUD, and others that provide housing assistance for extremely low-income families and the homeless; mean-spirited actions that break up families and make immigrant communities less safe; and actions that roll back important environmental protections which serve to, among other things, ensure safe air and drinking waters in communities like Flint, Michigan, and mitigating the effects of climate change in vulnerable coastal communities like my home district of the United States Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has reached out to President Trump and is willing to work with his administration to continue to build upon the greatness of this country—and not just for the privileged few but for all.

As representatives of a congressional district that is home to the only HBCU outside the continental United States, I take exception to the administration's Education Secretary viewing HBCUs as pioneers for school choice, even though these institutions were founded because White colleges and universities refused to admit Black students.

This statement illustrates a lack of understanding of the history of the African Americans and the Black community. President Trump's proposed budget for the Department of Education plans to eliminate afterschool and teacher-support programs, as well as slashing funding for Federal supplemental education opportunity grants, Pell grants, and instead divert Federal funds to private school vouchers. This plan would be devastating to communities like my home district where almost one-third of the children live below the poverty line and where public schools are already struggling to make the best with limited funds and resources.

□ 2015

President Trump's budget proposal would also cut the Department of Health and Human Services' budget by \$12.6 billion, a 16 percent cut. In my home district of the United States Virgin Islands, HHS funds critical early childhood education; and nutrition programs provide assistance to seniors, low-income families, and funding for mental health programs.

Mr. Speaker, these and other actions that my colleagues will speak about are not to criticize the President, but more to highlight the importance of funding of these programs and, more importantly, highlighting how important these programs and government functions are to American families and to the safety and progress of our communities. America, stay woke. There are still more than 1,300 days to go.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for all of her hard work on this Special Order hour. I enjoy co-anchoring with the gentlewoman because of her commitment and wanting to get out these important messages.

I think the message we want to talk about today is the first 100 days. I don't know about you all, but I am disappointed in these first 100 days.

There were a lot of things that we were told were going to happen, and many of those things just hadn't happened. There has been a lot of flip-flopping. I know that you have seen that. We saw it on Syria. We saw it on NATO. We saw it on many other things that there was a whole lot of talk that happened in 2016, but there ain't a whole lot of walking that has happened in 2017 as far as follow-up is concerned. That is the sort of thing that all Americans should be worried about in these first 100 days that ended on Saturday.

Many of us hoped that the rhetoric, that the foolishness, the tweeting, that those types of things would stop. That hasn't stopped.

A lot of us actually hoped that—hey, if you want to talk about bringing some jobs back to somebody, I am for bringing jobs back. I am more committed to jobs and having jobs here in this country, and he hasn't done anything when it comes to jobs.

There has been absolutely no follow-up whatsoever when it comes to helping the American man and woman reopen factories, when it comes to helping the American man and woman help pay for their child care. When it comes to things like Davis-Bacon and putting more money on the table at the end of the night and in the bank accounts, absolutely nothing has been done, and that is what we should be concerned about.

The President promised on the campaign trail that he was going to help these hardworking Americans that I talked about earlier. One of the things that he talked about was the Buy American, Hire American. Ain't nothing happening on that. We know that not only did Trump fail to deliver on these promises, but that he has actually worked against the best interests of American workers.

He has also gone on to contradict himself on his commitment to job training. Instead of investing in job training and these crucial programs, the Trump administration has proposed \$2.5 billion in cuts for the Department of Labor. We have, by many estimates, about a half a million or more jobs in this country that are high-skilled manufacturing jobs that we can't fill. These are jobs that could fill factories back up in the Rust Belt. These are jobs that could fill factories back up in Texas. These are jobs that could be filled up in other parts of the country.

You want to cut back on job training when we need to be training people for these new jobs? These are new manu-

facturing jobs that deal with robots, deal with programmers and different areas like that where the young people don't necessarily have the skills that they need to be competitive.

You hear about these companies that have come to America, they locate here—foreign car manufacturers, for instance—and they have to work with the local community colleges to get the kids on par to work these new manufacturing jobs. Now is not the time to cut back on job training. So that is what bothers me in these first 100 days.

The administration has rolled back worker protections that keep Americans safe while on the job. Last month, President Trump changed the law so that employers now only have 6 months to report workplace injuries and illnesses instead of the previously required 5-year reporting window. Scaling back the requirement does not allow the Department of Labor to get a full picture of a given workplace. It makes it more difficult to spot a trend of endangering employees.

Trump also gutted another worker protection that would have made it harder for companies to secure Federal contracts if they have a history of labor law violations. That protection is now gone. It is gone. It has disappeared.

Above all else, President Trump has still not put forward a single, concrete, job-creating bill like he pledged. He betrayed his promise to make rebuilding America's infrastructure a top priority of this administration. He has failed to mention a word about protecting the Davis-Bacon Act which, as you know, would ensure that workers are paid fairly should an infrastructure bill come together.

Again, when you are talking about money, I mean that is a very serious topic. Money decides whether or not you can pay your bills, whether or not you can put food on the table, whether or not you can buy your kids clothes, whether or not you can make the car payment.

The Davis-Bacon Act is a basic fundamental. If you cannot protect that, those prevailing wages that give people the opportunity to earn a good income, again, then you are just talking and you ain't walking. That is what I am worried about in these first 100 days.

You are going to hear a lot from the Congressional Black Caucus tonight about how the President has failed to deliver on so many of his campaign promises, how he is trying to take away health care from 24 million Americans. High-risk pools are absolutely terrible.

One of the things the Obama administration did was it gave people who have preexisting conditions the chance to have affordable healthcare insurance. Thinking about taking insurance away from 24 million people, thinking about taking those protections from individual families that have those preexisting conditions, I think, is absolutely terrible.

There are just so many policies that actually directly affect the American family. Remember, the very first day—and there have been so many bad things that have happened in these 100 days that we don't even have enough time to cover all of them tonight, but you probably remember the very first day, the first-time home-buyer program was suspended.

There is nothing that exemplifies what it means to be American as it means to own a home. That is the first day, the first action, the most antiworker, most antifamily action that anyone could take—got rid of the first-time home-buyer program. He got rid of the first-time home-buyer program that helped individuals have a piece of the American Dream: homeownership.

We have seen the statistics about what homeownership means to the American family, what that means for the stability of American families, kids being able to have that backyard to play in, being able to go to that neighborhood school, to have that home to call your own to raise your family. It is so much more than just a home. It is really the foundation of who we are as Americans.

Getting rid of the first-time home-buyer program, that is not doing anything to help American families. That is not doing anything to help American workers.

I am glad that we have so many great voices here tonight within the CBC that are going to talk about these first 100 days and about the failings of these first 100 days and about how the people that were there, the people that thought that there were going to be some real changes, how they have been misled. They have been misled.

They have been taken down this road, and it is not a road of prosperity. It is a road of less prosperity. It is a road of dismay, despair, less money, more expensive insurance, no insurance, and it is going to hurt the American worker and the American family.

So I just really appreciate everything that the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is doing today and hope that we can continue to get the media and the newspapers and the cable TV news people out here to really focus in and hone in on some of these problems that we are seeing coming out of the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) is correct about staying focused and, in the lexicon of the young people, to stay woke about what is happening.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) gave some great examples about some of the things that happened in this first 100 days that should make us aware how this is, in some ways, an assault on distressed communities, on minority communities. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) spoke to some of them.

One of the things I wanted to highlight is a booklet that the Congressional Black Caucus has put out about 100 actions that have taken place in these 100 days:

President Trump's proposed budget would eliminate the Economic Development Administration at the Department of Commerce. In 2015, EDA invested 38 percent of its funds in highly distressed areas, including communities with high minority populations, such as the gentleman from Texas' and mine.

President Trump's proposed budget would eliminate the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. People ask, What is that? This is an organization which channels investments into communities in need of capital for housing, small businesses, and community facilities. That is its sole function.

President Trump said that the private sector already did a good job making investments in these communities, which demonstrates how out of touch and ill-informed he and his administration are. His administration needs to tell him and give him the facts about what is going on in minority and underdeveloped communities.

As we will hear from our colleagues, there are areas in which environmental protection and climate change, social justice for environmental justice needs to take place. President Trump's proposed budget would cut environmental protection agencies, environmental justice programs that work to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, and national origin or income with the respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It would simply cut it out of place.

The proposed budget would cut the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coastal programs, which would affect populations, including minorities living along the Gulf Coast and other coastal areas.

At this time, we have other members of the Congressional Black Caucus that are here to talk about environmental justice.

This freshman Member has really stepped in and just taken a hold of actions and demonstrating a love for his constituents in coming here this evening and wanting to address environmental justice areas.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN).

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, every Monday, Representatives PLASKETT and VEASEY lead our Caucus' discussion on issues of great importance to the American people, and I am glad to be joining them this evening to discuss a critical priority that is often overlooked: environmental justice.

Our country is built upon ideals like liberty, justice, equal protection for all Americans, yet we still fall short on those goals in important ways. While I believe we are making progress, this is a critical moment.

Over the last 100 days, we have seen how eager the new administration is to undo our recent achievements, from selecting EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, a man who does not believe in climate change, to overturning critical antipollution protections.

The Trump administration has shown a dangerous contempt for proven science. The administration has even favorably discussed pulling the United States from a global climate change prevention pact, a move that could have disastrous, unknowable consequences for every generation to come.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on; but at this point, Mr. Speaker, before I continue, I want to bring forward my good friend—he has got a fabulous first name like I do—Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr. He is from the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey. He is a fierce advocate for environmental justice in his hometown of Newark. I thank the Congressman. His voice and advocacy will help us move toward sounder policies and more just outcomes, and I look forward to working with the gentleman.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN). It is the birthplace of my mother: Dinwiddie County, Virginia. My grandfather was a small-time tobacco farmer, and I learned to cut tobacco at 8 years old.

I am from Newark, New Jersey, the Garden State. We didn't raise much tobacco there in the Garden State, but my friends used to think I was going on vacation when I would leave. I said I wasn't going on vacation; I was going to work. That is what we did for the summer. It was a great experience, and I always have great, great memories of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, last month, as part of a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, I wrote an op-ed on environmental justice issues. I will repeat what I wrote then, which is that environmental justice should be a national priority, not a problem confined to minority communities.

African-American communities are disproportionately burdened with pollutants. Across the Nation, communities of color suffer from higher rates of exposure to air pollution, higher rates of lead poisoning, and higher rates of water pollution.

Every single day, children in my home city of Newark, New Jersey, are exposed to harmful levels of pollution from the port and other sources that rob them of their health, just because of where they live.

One in four Newark children has asthma. The hospitalization rate for Newark children is 30 times the rate of

the national average. Asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism in school-age children in the city of Newark, New Jersey.

Yet, too often, environmental justice is an afterthought, or often it is missing entirely in the discussion of the challenges facing African Americans.

The Trump administration threatens to make the problem even worse. President Trump has prioritized rolling back environmental regulations, from emissions rules for power plants to the mandate that Federal decisionmaking must be taken into consideration on climate change impacts.

President Trump proposed slashing the EPA's budget by 31 percent, cutting enforcement of the Agency's clean air laws by \$129 million.

With threats of excessive cuts to the EPA, air quality across the Nation may even be worse than expected. In the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" report, my district and many other metropolitan areas ranked as having the most polluted air in the country. However, only one-third of counties have ozone or particulate pollution air monitors. We must fight to ensure that funding for air monitors are for all our communities.

So what can we do to protect our communities from environmental degradation?

The Newark City Council has been a leader in that area and has passed a first-in-the-nation ordinance requiring developers to request environmental permits to inform the city of any environmental impacts. As a result, decisionmakers and the public will be able to make informed decisions about sustainable development. Other municipalities would be smart to follow Newark's lead.

Last November, I joined Amy Goldsmith and Kim Gaddy of the Clean Water Action and the Coalition for Healthy Ports for an environmental justice tour of the Port of New York and New Jersey. We were also joined by Congressman FRANK PALLONE from New Jersey. Organizations like theirs are doing excellent work in the fight against health-threatening pollution. Expanding partnerships on the environmental justice initiatives must be a central part of our strategy to secure environmental protections.

To those listening at home: I encourage you to make it clear to your elected officials that you will hold them accountable for any efforts to dismantle environmental protections and any failures to fight for environmental justice.

And to my colleague from Virginia, it is really noteworthy that you have taken the lead on this issue. As I stated in my presentation, Newark, New Jersey, is 30 times greater propensity for asthma in children than the national average. I mean, that is almost criminal.

And we as a home, myself, not just have heard about it, but have lived it. My middle son—I am the father of tri-

plets. My middle son has grown up with asthma; the days we had to keep him inside. He has been fortunate to have not—knock on wood—have many instances throughout his childhood of asthma attacks, but the one that I did see really brought me to tears.

To know that there are numbers of children throughout this country who don't have the opportunity to go to the doctor, who rush to the hospital with asthma attacks, and who, God forbid, sometimes don't make it to the doctor is just—to think that that could be my boy brings tears to my heart.

So I am willing to make this fight not for just my son, but for the hundreds of thousands of children throughout this country who suffer from this disease, and make sure that the EPA stays intact to fight these dreaded diseases, especially in minority communities, in our young people, and throughout the country.

I will close with the drinking water issue in Flint. The Congressional Black Caucus went out to Flint when the issue first came up. Ms. PELOSI was there as well, and we talked to the people of Flint and heard firsthand their heartbreak and not being able to think they could trust anyone. Their government had let them down, had lied to them, had given them poison to drink and said it is okay. It looked like rusty water, but they told them that it was fine to use it for baths or whatever.

So I am sitting there on that stage listening to all this and I am thinking in the back of my head: I am from Newark, New Jersey, the third oldest city in this country's history. So Flint, Michigan, can't be that old because Lewis and Clark went West.

So the third oldest city, what were my pipes like? What was the condition of my water system?

And I went back and I saw several mayors from my district, and I said: I suggest you start looking at your water systems.

And that was on a Friday. That Tuesday we got a report from the Newark school system. They found lead in the drinking water in 44 schools in Newark that next—not even a week.

So we know how important these issues are, and we will continue to fight for what is right in our communities. I appreciate the opportunity and your leadership on this issue.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), from the great city of Philadelphia.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great colleague from the Virgin Islands for the great introduction. I really appreciate her leadership, and my colleague from Texas' leadership.

This discussion that we have been having is relating to the President's 100 days. And I think it is 102 at this particular point.

The question that I and members of the Congressional Black Caucus have constantly been raising is: What do we have to lose with President Trump's cuts to the EPA?

As I always said: What don't we have to lose?

We have a lot to lose.

In the time that I met with the organization in my community—a number of organizations—called Mothers for Clean Air, they were extremely concerned about the cuts to the EPA. The President's budget cuts \$2.6 billion from the EPA budget. They were concerned about the impact that that would have. As a matter of fact, I talked to a mother who talked about her twins and what kind of effect that would have.

The President wants to cut programs like Pollution Prevention Programs, Lead Risk Reduction Programs—which has been a problem in the case of the city of Philadelphia, a problem that we thought we dealt with, but with a cut on the lead reduction program, that would just reinforce the program—the Water Quality Research Programs, and the Environmental Education Programs.

Who do you want to help when you cut 31 percent of the EPA budget?

No one. The cuts would be horrendous and have a dangerous negative impact on not only our communities of color, but everyone nationwide.

Two weeks ago I sent a letter to EPA Administrator Pruitt outlining how the plan to cut fundamental EPA programs would have a negative impact on our children and most vulnerable in Philadelphia, all across the State and the Nation.

Last week marks 3 weeks—3 years, I should say, since the city of Flint, Michigan, decided to switch their water supply from the Detroit area water system to the Flint River water system, which resulted in lead contamination within the city. It is 3 years later and, sadly, not much has changed for the communities in Flint. Three days is too long to go without clean drinking water. Three years is simply heartbreaking.

Mr. President, we have seen how various communities across the U.S. are at greater risk of health problems due to overexposure to unsafe drinking water. Now is no time to cut funding for Americans in need.

As Questlove says: "Without science, we are truly operating blindly."

The cuts to the EPA would have an increasingly harmful impact, especially for communities of color and hardworking families who do not have the means nor the resources to fight back against their local governments about the safety of the water they drink or question old paint in their house.

According to the State Department of Health, in 2014, more than 10 percent of the children from Philadelphia had elevated levels of lead in their blood because they were exposed to lead-based paint. Exposure to lead-based paint is a chronic problem that goes undiscussed too often.

No level is safe for our children to be exposed to, just as no level of lead is safe for our children to drink.

Yet, the President says rather boldly that things are moving in the right direction. I would like to know what community he is talking about. He clearly couldn't be talking about the community that I am from.

Now, more than ever, we need to keep the resistance alive, speak up and speak out for our communities at risk. I will not stand silent while the vital EPA programs that protect and enhance the lives of all Americans are at risk of being cut. Together, we are the voice of the people, so there is no way we will be silent. We will continue this message.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentleman, Congressman EVANS, for keeping us focused and giving us the information we need to understand what real communities are going through and the environmental justice that we need to be fighting for in this administration. I appreciate that so much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. McEACHIN), who has been the person who was at the forefront of this evening, bringing issues of environmental justice to our minds and exposing and explaining to the American people the assault on environmental justice that is taking place right now, and appealing to President Trump to be mindful of those communities who are going to be affected by the cuts and by other interest groups that are going after the basic needs that Americans have to stay healthy and stay alive.

□ 2045

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman.

As has been demonstrated tonight, on nearly every facet of environmental policy, we are in danger of backsliding irreparably. I want to talk about an area where that danger is especially great and where stakes are especially high. Today, and for much of our history, certain communities have been the victims of profound environmental injustice. Lower income, rural, tribal, and especially minority communities are at an increased risk of exposure to the negative impacts of pollution and climate change.

For far too long, communities of color have been on the front lines of environmental and economic injustice, shouldering the health burdens of living in areas with higher rates of dangerous fossil fuel pollution and lower rates of income and employment.

Mr. Speaker, an African-American child born in the United States has twice the chance of developing asthma than a White child and is four times more likely to die from an asthma attack. This is not a coincidental statistic ginned up for shock and awe but the day-to-day reality that African-American families across the United States have been dealing with for decades.

Rooted in America's legacy of segregation and redlining communities of color while simultaneously restricting

their government services, employment opportunities, and environmental protections, African-American families have historically borne the brunt of the worst health impacts of polluting industries and have received dwindling economic opportunities due to systemic racism. This is why we see coal plants, oil refineries, and natural gas plants, which spew some of the most toxic substances around into the air and contaminate water supplies, are frequently located in communities of color—communities that have little political or economic power to protect themselves.

These disparities, Mr. Speaker, are unacceptable, and they did not arise in a vacuum. In many cases, they have been the avoidable results of government action or inaction. For example, according to the FY 2015 Annual Environmental Justice Progress Report, "Many low-income, minority, and tribal communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and are not able to participate in environmental decisions due to barriers preventing them from meaningfully engaging in the political process."

These voices deserve to be heard. Their silence—particularly their enforced silence—is unacceptable, and it is incompatible with our, small D, democratic values. The practical consequences of that silence are dire: poorer public health, diminished economic opportunity, and decreased quality of life.

To address these grave human and civil rights issues, the environmental justice movement was born—a movement grounded in the belief that all citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic class, should share fairly in the benefits of environmental resources and the burdens of environmental hazards.

As policymakers, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to embrace that vision—to correct and prevent environmental injustice. We can and we must do better. It is not enough to avoid repeating past mistakes. True equity requires a recognition that some communities have been hurt much more and, as a result, need more resources and targeted assistance. If we succeed—if we achieve equitable policies that promote environmental justice—our world will become a more fair, more liveable, and more sustainable place. But if we fail, public health will suffer. People will lead shorter and harder lives. None of us should be willing to accept that outcome.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is worth noting that the environmental justice movement began in 1982, when North Carolina established a toxic waste landfill in Warren County—a poor, rural, majority African-American locality—over the objections of the residents. In the more than 20 years since, many environmental justice organizations have formed. During the Clinton administration, the pursuit of environmental justice became a Federal priority.

Sadly, though, these improvements have not been enough to fix long-standing problems, and, again, the progress we have made is under grave threat. Left unchecked, this administration would devastate communities of color and many other vulnerable groups as well.

Today, the Trump administration is rolling back budgets, cutting offices, obscuring scientific information, and attacking legislation aimed at curbing environmental justice. That is why, on March 7, we witnessed the resignation of Mr. Mustafa Ali from his post as leader of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Program. For more than two decades, Mr. Ali helped lead our Nation's efforts to secure justice and positive change for vulnerable communities that have seen their public health threatened and the quality of their air, water, and land degraded.

In his letter, Mr. Ali said: "Communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous populations are still struggling to receive equal protections before the law."

"These communities, both rural and urban, often live in areas with toxic levels of air pollution, crumbling or nonexistent water and sewer infrastructure, lead in the drinking water, brownfields from vacant former industrial and commercial sites, Superfund and other hazardous waste sites, as well as other sources of exposure to pollutants."

"Despite the many challenges we face regarding the impacts of pollution and a changing climate, we have just as many effective tools and programs with long track records of assisting vulnerable communities in meeting their goals of improving public health and enhancing the environmental quality of their local communities."

Mr. Speaker, I know my Democratic colleagues are eager to use these tools to secure just outcomes and better lives for the people we represent. Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends in the majority to join with us.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss environmental justice.

Together, we have amplified a simple truth: regardless of the color of your skin, how much money you make, or where you live, every American is entitled to clean air, clean water, and access to our public lands. Again, when we fail to achieve those goals, public health suffers, quality of life suffers, and people lead shorter and harder lives.

We know that climate change is real. We know that it is being caused by human activity. If we fail to act, we know that there are going to be terrible consequences for the entire human community. We also know that vulnerable populations and marginalized communities are poised to suffer the most—just as they have in the past. That kind of environmental

injustice has a long history, and it must stop.

That is why, this past week, I announced the creation of the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Task Force alongside my colleagues, Congresswoman JAYAPAL from Washington State and Congresswoman BARRAGÁN from California. We are going to fight every day to prevent climate change and to mitigate its worst effects. We are going to advocate for policies that correct and prevent environmental injustice. We are going to defend every American's right to clean air, safe water, and healthy communities. I think I can speak for all three of us when I say that we look forward to working with you all.

Millions of working families are counting on us, Mr. Speaker, as their Representatives in the House and the Senate to serve them and to make wise decisions to improve their lives. We must confront environmental and economic injustices through fierce participation in the planning processes in at-risk areas moving forward. That means demanding more stringent environmental compliance and enforcement that protect communities of color from fossil fuel pollution and demanding greater investments in clean energy deployment in historically African-American communities that will create union and family-wage jobs with upward mobility.

I know my colleagues on this side of the aisle are committed to making this change, and I challenge our friends in the majority to join us. I urge them to support greater transparency, objectivity, and outreach in environmental policymaking. I urge them to support processes that improve two-way communication between decisionmakers and the people their decisions affect. I urge them to help ensure that the decisionmakers are confronting the full effects of their choices—including how consequences are distributed and by whom they are borne.

Protecting the environment, Mr. Speaker—creation care—is my passion. I commit to you that I will continue fighting each and every day to address climate change and sea level rise, push for renewable energy and green technologies, and do everything I can to leave this planet a better place for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am an Eagle Scout, and I know that we are supposed to leave the campground better than the way we found it. The time is now to continue fighting for perhaps the most important issue of the 21st century—the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for her indulgence.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McEACHIN for his passion and for his commitment to these issues of environmental justice.

Particularly in the Virgin Islands, we know that climate change is real. We feel it, and we see it in how we operate

and how our environment is changing, whether it be mosquitoes and Zika, before that chikungunya and dengue. We know that the effects of climate change are impacting our health and impacting the livelihoods of our environment.

The Congressional Black Caucus supports policies that ensure that all Americans also have access to a clean and healthy environment. Studies have long shown an unsettling correlation between race and the location of hazardous waste facilities. For example, a 1983 Government Accountability Office study found that 75 percent of hazardous waste landfills in eight southeastern States were located in predominantly poor and minority communities.

The places where minorities live, work, and learn are significantly compromised by air, water, land, soil, noise, and light pollutants. Black Americans and other minorities are predisposed to health issues directly linked to environmental and toxic waste. We cannot take away funding to support the eradication of these health hazards. We must continue to push for that.

We are not here as the Congressional Black Caucus simply to disparage our President. We are not here to point out his fallacies. But we would be doing a grave disservice to the people that we represent, not just minorities but all Americans, if we do not stand up and discuss the issues that are of grave concern to us, to ask for support and funding, to ask that there not be a rollback on many of the gains that we have had that have supported and helped our community.

At the beginning of the 115th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus launched: "What Did Trump Do?" It was a rapid-response messaging document we used to inform our external stakeholders. This "What Did Trump Do?" is a special #staywoke edition. We are listing 100 actions President Trump and his administration have taken over the last 100 days. It was developed by 78 million Americans that the CBC collectively represent, including 17 million African Americans, as well as millions of Americans we do not represent.

We want this information to be before the American people to show that work must still be done. We talked about environmental areas. I am going to list some of the things that have happened in the 100 days that we need to be cognizant of, that we need to make sure that these things do not take place, and that they not become embedded in this great America in which we live.

On February 28, Attorney General Sessions said that the DOJ would pull back from using its legal authority to monitor police departments responsible for repeated instances of police misconduct and abuses by backing away from legal commitment first enacted into law by Representative JOHN

CONYERS as part of the 1994 crime reform legislation. Sessions sent a signal to the African-American community that the police misconduct laws will not be equally and fully enforced. On that same day, the President signed a bill that rolled back a regulation restricting gun purchases by the mentally ill through a use of background checks.

Attorney General Sessions rescinded the Obama-era order to reduce the use of privately operated prisons. The use of privately operated prisons creates a financial incentive to lock people up using African Americans, Latinos, and poor people. In addition, in comparison to the government-operated prisons, privately operated prisons are less safe and secure for both staff and inmates, don't provide the same level of rehabilitative services like educational programs and job trainings which increase the likelihood that those who are released from prison will return to a life of crime.

Finally, although privately operated prisons are said to be more cost effective than government prisons, they are not because those that are in those prisons will continue to, in many instances, come back causing a burden not just on the American people and taxpayers but on the families and the communities in which those individuals reside.

Other things that have happened in these first 100 days: President Trump appointed Candace E. Jackson as Acting Assistant Secretary for civil rights at the Department of Education. Ms. Jackson once said that affirmative action promotes racial discrimination and claims she was discriminated against for being White. Secretary DeVos hired Robert Eitel, an official with deep ties to the for-profit college industry, to be a Special Assistant to the Department of Education. This hire presents a serious conflict of interest and raises questions about whether Eitel can put students' needs above the interest of his former colleagues.

President Trump's proposed budget for the Department of Education hurts low-income students from pre-K through college by undermining public education through the elimination of afterschool and teacher-support programs and diverting Federal funds to private school vouchers, eliminating support for college students, gutting Federal workstudy, and slashing critical funding for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Pell grants.

All of these cuts would have severe consequences for our Nation's students—not just African Americans but Latinos and students in large urban areas. No afterschool programs, no support for teachers—what will our children do?

□ 2100

What will those families do that need those children and that support?

On March 9, EPA Administrator Pruitt said that he did not think that carbon dioxide was the primary driver of global warming even though that is the public position of EPA, NOAA, and NASA.

We can go on and on. We have a document with over 100 actions that have been taken in the last 100 days.

In housing and homeownership, President Trump's proposed budget would cut the Department of Housing and Urban Development by \$6 billion. HUD is responsible for providing housing assistance to extremely low-income families and the homeless and reinvesting in American cities and counties.

Those same proposed budgets would end the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which assists families with energy costs, including home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related home repair.

These are some of the many examples of what has happened. We give these examples not merely to degrade what has happened with this administration, but to show that work must still be done and that we, as Americans, must stay woke to what is happening in this country. We must keep our eyes vigilant and on the prize and ensure that Americans will see what is really happening and not be moved by the media, by the tweets, but see actual facts.

We are working in real facts here to let you know what needs to be done and that we, the Congressional Black Caucus, as Members of Congress, are asking our colleagues across the aisle and in the Democratic Caucus to support us and to support the issues that are relevant not just to African Americans, but to all Americans this day.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 (Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to expose the cavalier disregard of environmental justice by our President during his first 100 days in office. In a short period of time, President Donald J. Trump made clear his agenda—anti-climate, anti-science, and anti-fact. The current administration has already taken significant steps, in lock-step with Congressional Republicans, to roll back and erase the progress made by the Obama Administration to protect our health, our public lands, and our precious environment.

Since taking office, President Trump has signed a number of executive orders reversing many of President Obama's environmental protections—promoting cleaner air, cleaner water, and more sustainable energy production. The current White House is on a fast-

track to derail decades of progress and set our nation back in the effort to combat climate change. The Clean Power Plan, which established comprehensive carbon emission standards and put the United States at the forefront of global environmental stewardship, was one of Trump's first targets. Instead of investing in technological and scientific innovation to make America a leader in greener, cleaner, sustainable energy production and consumption, President Trump has used his office to support the interests of corporations and interests in big oil and dirty coal on the backs of hard-working Americans.

Furthermore, the current administration has promulgated efforts to expand environmentally detrimental offshore drilling, allow the dumping of mining waste, and potentially force an exit from the 2015 Paris Agreement which brought the world's powers together in agreement to curb our collective carbon emissions.

The proposed budget goes even further in rejecting evidenced-based policy-making. From proposals to cripple the Environmental Protection Agency and zero-out critical programs at the Department of Energy like ARPA-E, this administration has abandoned our nation's effort to protect our planet and be a global leader.

Our administration's blatant disregard toward the health, economic, and national security risks associated with global climate change is shortsighted and will only further endanger Americans' health, security, and economic stability. While we will all suffer from the consequences of short-sighted federal policy, the heaviest burden is bound to fall on those already marginalized.

Minorities and working class families are already struggling to make ends meet, but study after study shows that they are the most vulnerable to environmental injustices. Subject to downwind and downstream pollution, children and families who are economically disadvantaged often lack the political voice to keep industries from polluting their communities and frequently bear the brunt of deregulatory regimes. Take Flint, Michigan for example, where young children have been exposed to toxic levels of lead from their drinking water. That is wrong and should be unheard of in the world's most powerful nation.

I urge my colleagues to consider the kind of country we want our children to live in. Where is the freedom in living in a community where there is no access to clean drinking water, or a city where children are forced to stay inside because the air is so polluted? We can and must do better, Mr. Speaker. The actions the President has set forth thus far do nothing to Make America Great Again; rather, his first one hundred days has only made America more polluted, less safe, and less secure.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand firm in their resolve to hold this and future administrations accountable to keeping our air clean, our water safe, and our environment sustainable for future generations. We have far too much to lose, Mr. Speaker, and future generations deserve our better judgement.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a family medical issue.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 496. An act to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform".

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 28, 2017, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 99. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1221. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program for Fiscal Year 2016 Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 113-93, Sec. 224; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1222. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 05-17, informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Kingdom of Sweden, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 910. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-102). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1366. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any

other possession of the United States (Rept. 115-103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1312. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act; with an amendment (Rept. 115-104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1242. A bill to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-105). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 299. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; providing for proceedings during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017; and for other purposes (Rept. 115-106). 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. AGUILAR:

H.R. 2258. A bill to require that certain standards for commercial driver's licenses applicable to former members of the armed services or reserves also apply to current members of the armed services or reserves; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 2259. A bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to expand services and benefits for volunteers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2260. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 2261. A bill to improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, prevention, response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr.

LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 2262. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require certain consumer reporting agencies to include a credit score when providing consumers with a free annual consumer report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SABLÁN, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 2263. A bill to provide for greater transparency and information with respect to Federal expenditures under the Medicaid and CHIP programs in the territories of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 2264. A bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 2265. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small businesses to defer the payment of certain employment taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 2266. A bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2267. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KINZINGER, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 2268. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice to award grants to local educational agencies to establish, expand, and support programs to train school staff to recognize and respond to signs of labor and sex trafficking and to provide classroom curricula to students on how to avoid becoming victims of labor and sex trafficking; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 2269. A bill to require the Administration of General Services to issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 2270. A bill to amend section 437(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for repayment by the Secretary of loans to parents of disabled students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2271. A bill to permit employees to request, and to ensure employers consider re-

quests for, flexible work terms and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MENG, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 2272. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 2273. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabidiol and cannabidiol-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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 Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2274. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for extended periods relating to preliminary permits and commencement of construction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 2275. A bill to require employers to provide pay stubs, codify the Executive order relating to Government contracting, provide greater oversight of executive compensation and restrictions on sales of stocks, clarify the definition of a supervisor, and enhance penalties for violations of workforce safety and standards; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 2276. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of audiologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing audiology services under the Medicare program, to improve access to the audiology services available for coverage under the Medicare program and to enable beneficiaries to have their choice of a qualified audiologist to provide such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the

Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 2277. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit Members of Congress from receiving a discounted price in certain private offerings of securities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 2278. A bill to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 2279. A bill to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, in recognition of the ceaseless efforts of American aircrew members to escape captivity and evade capture by the enemy forces in occupied countries during our foreign wars, and the brave resistance organizations and patriotic nationals of those foreign countries who assisted them; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 300. A resolution encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H. Res. 301. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 30 as "National Bartter Syndrome Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H. Res. 302. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2017 as "Health and Fitness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

27. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 9, calling upon the U.S. Air Force, the Administration and Congress to thoroughly and conscientiously evaluate the utility and efficacy of basing a squadron of F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, to facilitate a continued flying mission for the Idaho Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

28. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 7, urging President Trump, Secretary Price and Congress to take the following action: Allow individual states to once again serve as the primary regulator of health insurance plans and immediately permit the free market availability and sale of nonsubsidized health insurance plans in accordance with state-established statutes, regulations and rules governing such plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

29. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 2, supporting actions by the Governor and the Attorney General to op-

pose passage and introduction of salmon or steelhead above Hells Canyon Dam, that are necessary to protect Idaho's sovereignty, including its waters and property rights; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

30. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 4, encouraging western states and the federal government to establish cooperative and coordinated efforts with the State of Idaho to prevent, to whatever extent possible, through efforts including inspections, decontamination policies, enforcement of invasive species laws and rapid response protocols, further spread of the dreissenid mussels, and containment where established, until such time as viable tools for eradication are discovered; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

31. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 8, urging Congress to appropriate \$8 million of the authorized \$20 million for FY 2018 to the four Northwest states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, according to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6, urging that United States farmers, ranchers and food processors be enabled to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign and domestic markets on a strictly level playing field; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce.

33. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 3, supporting the Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress to identify, commit and sustain the necessary funding to allow the Department of Energy to continue to make progress at meeting its cleanup milestones to benefit the citizens of Idaho and its environment; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space, and Technology.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced a bill (H.R. 2280) for the relief of Arturo Hernandez-Garcia; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 2258.

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

Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 2259.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2260.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 2261.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution:

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

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2262.

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

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2263.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2264.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 2265.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 2266.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 2267.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2268.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2269.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 2270.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2271.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2272.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2273.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2274.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 2275.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 2276.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 2277.

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

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 2278.

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

Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 2279.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 2280.

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

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 36: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 37: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 38: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 60: Mr. TIPTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 116: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 453: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 519: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 544: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 559: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 619: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 669: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 721: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 747: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 749: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 750: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 807: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 809: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 820: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 910: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 919: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 1002: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1005: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 1014: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1017: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1035: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1038: Mr. DUNN and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 1046: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1057: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1058: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 1098: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1114: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1141: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1148: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 1149: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1164: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1200: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1204: Mr. LATTI and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1206: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1212: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1231: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1235: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1242: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1267: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1318: Mr. WALZ and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1322: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 1361: Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1363: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1366: Mr. MESSER and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 1406: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1421: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1447: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1472: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1478: Ms. MOORE and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1484: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 1552: Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 1565: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1600: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1625: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1629: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1635: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1639: Mr. BACON and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1663: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1676: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 1677: Mr. KNIGHT and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1698: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. KILMER, Mr. REED, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1699: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1727: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1730: Ms. ROSEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 1777: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1811: Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HURD, Mr. BARR, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MAST, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. ROUZER, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1812: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1825: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1828: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1844: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1848: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1854: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1857: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1861: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1872: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. LEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1874: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1885: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1886: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1902: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 1904: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1928: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 1953: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1960: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1969: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1988: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1999: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 2004: Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LATTI.

H.R. 2029: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 2031: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 2059: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2105: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2119: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2167: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 2168: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 2175: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2176: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2192: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 2197: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2214: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 2220: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2226: Mr. ARRINGTON and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2248: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2250: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.J. Res. 6: Mr. FASO.

H. Con. Res. 8: Mr. MAST and Mr. WELCH.

H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H. Res. 21: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H. Res. 30: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LEVIN.

H. Res. 69: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 165: Mr. MARSHALL.

H. Res. 218: Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 220: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 239: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.

H. Res. 256: Mr. KNIGHT.

H. Res. 259: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. MOULTON.

H. Res. 288: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H. Res. 295: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. HASTINGS.

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. 2192 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

No. 74

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.

God of our fathers and mothers, continue to lead us with the power of Your wisdom and might. Empower our Senators to live this day with honor. Increase their faith, hope, and love that they may receive Your promises and claim them to accomplish Your purposes for our world.

Lord, inspire our Senators today with the music of Your wisdom that through their labors, they may bring hope from despair and joy from sadness. Teach them to celebrate, even in the darkness, because You are the God who gives us strength to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the funding bill announced last night will allow us to make critical advances to rebuild our military, strengthen our border, and continue providing relief to

communities that have struggled for too long against the opioid epidemic. These are important priorities for Congress and for the President. They reflect a lot of hard work. They promise to positively and meaningfully impact the lives of the men and women we represent. The funding bill also includes another critical priority I have long fought for: protecting healthcare for thousands of retired coal miners.

This legislation would allow us to take the initial step needed to begin rebuilding our military. It contains a downpayment on defense that will support forward-deployed forces in places like the Korean Peninsula and Eastern Europe and operations against adversaries like ISIL and the Taliban as we work to secure the funds that will be necessary to improve readiness and restore munitions and ammunition.

We know that more must be done to meet our global commitments, and by providing some of the resources that will be necessary for a sustained rebuilding campaign—one we can hope will earn bipartisan support—we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to substantially strengthen the border. It contains the largest increase in border security resources in a decade, allowing us to address high-priority security needs, crack down on illegal border crossings, and strengthen the border with everything from upgraded physical infrastructure to high-tech biometric and surveillance technology. We know more must be done to secure the border, and by finally delivering more of the resources and tools necessary to secure it, we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to fight back against the opioid and heroin crisis while bolstering medical innovation and treatments at the same time. It contains funding for programs Congress authorized last year in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, continued funding for the 21st

Century Cures Act—also passed last year—to attack opioid abuse, plus additional funds to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis that has devastated communities across the Nation.

We know more must be done to heal the communities that are hurting, and by funding the fight against today's epidemic, along with a fight for tomorrow's medical solutions, we can take an important step in the right direction. My home State of Kentucky has been particularly hard-hit by this epidemic, and helping our families and communities overcome this assault remains a top priority for me.

On another priority of mine addressed in the funding bill, I am particularly proud to announce that through this legislation, we have secured a permanent extension of healthcare benefits for thousands of retired coal miners and their families in States like Kentucky. Over the past few years, I have met with numerous Kentucky miners about this important issue, and I have been proud to lead efforts to help these families keep their healthcare. Now I am pleased to report that this spending legislation incorporates language from a bill I introduced earlier this year and will enact a permanent extension of miner healthcare benefits. I am proud to have secured this important provision as we put together the final package, and I will continue to fight to provide relief for coal communities going forward.

Moreover, this funding bill also includes additional assistance for troubled coal-mining communities and dislocated coal workers, and it promotes an "all of the above" energy policy that prioritizes coal, natural gas, and nuclear research.

It is disappointing that our Democratic colleagues blocked last year's efforts to move individual appropriations bills under the regular order, but I am pleased that they have now agreed to a solution that will advance many of the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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priorities of the American people, Congress, and the President.

The funding legislation announced last night, which incorporates the 11 regular appropriations bills remaining from last year, is the product of a great deal of work in committee last year and subsequent bipartisan, bicameral discussions this year. I want to thank all of those who put in long hours and continued to negotiate in good faith so that we could arrive at this strong agreement.

In particular, I wish to recognize Chairman COCHRAN, the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and their staffs. They worked to ensure that the process was bipartisan and bicameral every step of the way. Because of their efforts, we now have an agreement that both sides should support.

Before we take up the bill later this week, I encourage all Senators to review the full text, which includes more information on the priorities I just mentioned, and then let's keep working together to pass it later this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 39 through 51 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Brown
Rear Adm. (lh) James S. Bynum
Rear Adm. (lh) Daryl L. Caudle
Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Correll
Rear Adm. (lh) Randy B. Crites
Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel H. Fillion
Rear Adm. (lh) Collin P. Green
Rear Adm. (lh) Mary M. Jackson
Rear Adm. (lh) James W. Kilby
Rear Adm. (lh) James J. Malloy
Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Tamm, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kevin M. Jones
Capt. Thomas J. Moreau

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Re-

serve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David G. Bellon
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Edward D. Banta
Brig. Gen. Robert F. Castellvi
Brig. Gen. Matthew G. Glavy
Brig. Gen. Michael S. Groen
Brig. Gen. Kevin M. Iiams
Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen, III
Brig. Gen. Gregg P. Olson
Brig. Gen. Eric M. Smith

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael S. Martin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. James H. Adams, III
Col. Eric E. Austin
Col. Jay M. Bargerion
Col. Michael J. Borgschulte
Col. William J. Bowers
Col. Dimitri Henry
Col. Keith D. Reventlow
Col. Roberta L. Shea
Col. Benjamin T. Watson
Col. Christian F. Wortman

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. David H. Lewis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Mathias W. Winter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Steven L. Parode

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) John P. Polowczyk

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Jon A. Hill
Rear Adm. (lh) Gordon D. Peters

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN128 AIR FORCE nomination of Raymond C. Jones, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN129 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher E. Austin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN130 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning ROBERT D. HOUGHTLING, and ending CARL H. SPEARS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN131 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning LISA ANN BANYASZ, and ending JULIE L. WIBLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN132 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning LORI J. BETTERS, and ending LISA S. SHEAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN133 AIR FORCE nomination of James A. Crider, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN134 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning JOSE E. BARRERA, and ending DAVID H. ZONES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN135 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning KRISTIN L. ADER, and ending CHRISTOPHER C. VANNATTA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN136 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning GREGG MICHAEL CAGGIANELLI, and ending WILLIAM SCOTT WIECHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN137 AIR FORCE nominations (136) beginning PATRICK W. ALBRECHT, and ending STEPHEN S. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN138 AIR FORCE nomination of Stephen N. Luker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN139 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning TYLER J. BANACHOWSKI, and ending MARITA N. ZGURI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN140 AIR FORCE nominations (244) beginning JONI A. ABBOTT, and ending DANIELLE C. YUEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN141 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning MICHAEL J. ALFARO, and ending SARA M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN142 AIR FORCE nominations (129) beginning JESSICA L. ABBOTT, and ending HEATH D. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN143 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning COREY R. ANDERSON, and ending ANDREW J. STOY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (63) beginning EDWARD R. ANDERSON, III, and ending RAMON YAMBO ARIAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN174 AIR FORCE nominations (438) beginning PATRICK M. ALBRITTON, and ending RAY A. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN250 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning NEIL R. COPELAND, and ending OLIVIA M. VAUGHAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN251 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert P. McCoy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN252 AIR FORCE nomination of Allen R. Henderson, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN253 AIR FORCE nomination of George L. Burnett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN254 AIR FORCE nomination of Dion R. Dixon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN255 AIR FORCE nomination of Rebecca A. Lipe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN256 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael N. Tesfay, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN257 AIR FORCE nomination of Megan G. K. Steele, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN258 AIR FORCE nominations (141) beginning RYAN W. ABNER, and ending BREANCA G. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN259 AIR FORCE nominations (76) beginning ALLEN SETH ABRAMS, and ending THOMAS BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN260 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning CHAD A. BELLAMY, and ending ANDREW L. THORNLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN261 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning AMEE L. ALVIAR, and ending DAVID A. WHITEHORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN262 AIR FORCE nominations (40) beginning WILLIE J. BABOR, and ending MAUREEN SCHELLIE WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN263 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning HECTOR L. COLONCOLON, and ending KEVIN L. LOCKETT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN264 AIR FORCE nominations (33) beginning BETH M. BAYKAN, and ending WILLIAM T. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN265 AIR FORCE nomination of Martin J. Hamilton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN266 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning MICHAEL A. BLACKBURN, and ending JASON S. WRACHFORD, which nominations

were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

IN THE ARMY

PN145 ARMY nomination of Scott C. Apling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN146 ARMY nomination of Patricia L. George, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN148 ARMY nomination of Adam J. Points, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN149 ARMY nomination of Larry G. Workman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN150 ARMY nomination of Robert J. Dunlap, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN151 ARMY nomination of Wayne O. Dehaney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN152 ARMY nomination of Johnathan T. Parchem, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN153 ARMY nominations (883) beginning JACOB P. ABSALON, and ending G010445, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN154 ARMY nominations (545) beginning MARK P. ADAMS, and ending G010388, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN155 ARMY nominations (483) beginning AMIR A. ABUAKEEL, and ending D013352, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN156 ARMY nominations (85) beginning VANESSA R. ASMUS, and ending D013007, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN157 ARMY nomination of Michael C. Flynn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN158 ARMY nomination of Steve L. Martinelli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN161 ARMY nominations (127) beginning KENNETH AHORRIO, and ending PAUL W. ZIEGLER, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN162 ARMY nominations (210) beginning TOLULOPE O. ADEYEMI, and ending D013595, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN163 ARMY nominations (77) beginning PAUL J. E. AUCHINCLOSS, and ending D012628, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN164 ARMY nominations (26) beginning RACHEL A. ACCIACCA, and ending LAUREN E. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN165 ARMY nomination of Christopher J. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN166 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DANIEL B. KING, and ending TODD E. WAINMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN175 ARMY nomination of John J. Botorff, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN176 ARMY nomination of Eugene L. Thomas, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN177 ARMY nomination of John T. Bleigh, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN178 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey D. Buck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN179 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Preczewski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN180 ARMY nominations (2) beginning CANDY BOPARAI, and ending LINCOLN F. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN181 ARMY nominations (2) beginning CHARLES J. HASELBY, and ending JASON T. RAMSPOTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN182 ARMY nomination of Alexander M. Willard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN183 ARMY nomination of Christopher K. Berthold, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN184 ARMY nomination of Preston H. Leonard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN185 ARMY nomination of Nicole E. Ussery, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN186 ARMY nomination of Michael D. Baker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN187 ARMY nomination of Bridget V. Kmetz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN188 ARMY nominations (2) beginning VEDNER BELLOT, and ending JAMES ROBINSON, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN189 ARMY nominations (2) beginning ANGELA L. FUNARO, and ending CHAD HACKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN190 ARMY nomination of Brian R. Harki, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN191 ARMY nominations (8) beginning JONATHAN L. BOURIAQUE, and ending DAVID A. LANGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN192 ARMY nominations (6) beginning TIMOTHY L. BAER, and ending GERALD R. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN193 ARMY nomination of James V. Crawford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN194 ARMY nomination of Mohammed S. Aziz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN195 ARMY nomination of Seth C. Lydem, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN196 ARMY nomination of Christopher C. Ostby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN197 ARMY nomination of Calvin E. Fish, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN198 ARMY nomination of Aaron E. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN199 ARMY nomination of Damien Boffardi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN200 ARMY nomination of Randy D. Dorsey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN201 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BENJAMIN R. SMITH, and ending STALIN R. SUBRAMANIAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN202 ARMY nomination of Mark W. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN203 ARMY nominations (7) beginning THOMAS R. MATELSKI, and ending JOSHUA H. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN204 ARMY nomination of Mark B. Howell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN205 ARMY nomination of Julio ColonGonzalez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN206 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JASON N. BULLOCK, and ending GERALD A. NUNZIATO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN267 ARMY nomination of Jennifer A. McAfee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN268 ARMY nomination of Nina R. Copeland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN269 ARMY nomination of Calvin E. Townsend, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN270 ARMY nomination of Scott A. McDonald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN271 ARMY nomination of Thomas P. Lukins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN272 ARMY nomination of Scott M. McFarland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN273 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey A. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN274 ARMY nomination of Joseph M. Kilonzo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN275 ARMY nomination of Brandi A. Schuyler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN276 ARMY nomination of David J. Kaczmarek, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN277 ARMY nomination of Jonathan A. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN278 ARMY nominations (22) beginning JAMES A. BENSON, and ending WILLIAM M. YANEK, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN279 ARMY nomination of Crystal J. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN280 ARMY nomination of Dana B. Love, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN281 ARMY nomination of Douglas A. McKewan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN282 ARMY nomination of David M. Wallace, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN283 ARMY nomination of Lisa M. Patton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN293 ARMY nomination of Basil J. Catanzaro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN216 MARINE CORPS nominations (17) beginning DANIEL E. ALGER, JR., and ending JESSICA M. WALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN217 MARINE CORPS nominations (712) beginning ANIS A. ABUZEID, and ending CRAIG A. ZOELLNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN218 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning DANIEL W. ANNUNZIATA, and ending LEAH R. PARROTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN219 MARINE CORPS nomination of James R. Reusse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN220 MARINE CORPS nominations (320) beginning JOSE M. ACEVEDO, and ending FRANCISCO X. ZAVALA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN221 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning HENRY CENTENO, JR., and ending JAMES L. SHELTON, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN222 MARINE CORPS nomination of Richard K. O'Brien, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN223 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL J. ALLEN, and ending CHRISTOPHER T. HAMBRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN224 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning JEREMY T. FLANNERY, and ending MARK L. OLDROYD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN225 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph W. Hockett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN226 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning FRANCISCO D. AMAYA, and ending TYSON E. PETERS, which nominations were

received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN227 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning MICHAEL M. DODD, and ending ROBERT J. SNODDY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN228 MARINE CORPS nomination of David S. Gersen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN229 MARINE CORPS nomination of John W. Glinksy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN230 MARINE CORPS nomination of Keith A. Stevenson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN231 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning QUENTIN R. CARRITT, and ending ERIC A. SHARPE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN232 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning ANTHONY P. GREEN, and ending MICHAEL A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN234 MARINE CORPS nomination of Stuart M. Barker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN236 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning RICHARD CANEDO, and ending DAVID L. OGDEN, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN237 MARINE CORPS nomination of John E. Simpson, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN238 MARINE CORPS nomination of Sean T. Hays, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN239 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning LUKE A. CROUSON, and ending JASON C. FLORES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN240 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning ARLINGTON A. FINCH, JR., and ending KEVIN M. TSCHERCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN241 MARINE CORPS nominations (95) beginning STEPHEN J. ACOSTA, and ending DONALD R. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN242 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning JOSHUA P. BAHR, and ending JANHENDRIK C. ZURLIPPE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN243 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning JOHN T. BROWN, JR., and ending JULIUS G. JONES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN244 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning ELI J. BRESSLER, and ending JAMES R. STRAND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN245 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning CHADWICK W. ARDIS, and ending BRAD J. WILDE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN246 MARINE CORPS nomination of Duane A. Gumbs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

IN THE NAVY

PN167 NAVY nomination of Aaron B. Mayer, which was received by the Senate and

appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN169 NAVY nomination of John J. Kitt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN208 NAVY nominations (51) beginning JORGE R. BALARES, JR., and ending BRANDON M. ZOSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN209 NAVY nomination of Mary E. Linnell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN210 NAVY nominations (15) beginning SPENCER M. BURK, and ending BRIANNA S. WHITTEMORE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN211 NAVY nominations (5) beginning KIRK J. HIPPESTEEL, and ending JOHN M. RUGGERO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN213 NAVY nomination of Evita M. Salles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN215 NAVY nomination of John P. H. Rue, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN284 NAVY nominations (30) beginning MICHAEL W. AMECHE, and ending JOSHUA J. WHITLOW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN285 NAVY nominations (3) beginning RACHEL E. CARTER, and ending KEVIN D. KEITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN286 NAVY nominations (7) beginning MAUER BISCOTTI, III, and ending ADAM J. SUSMARSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN287 NAVY nomination of Donald V. Wilson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN288 NAVY nomination of Michael A. Winslow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN289 NAVY nominations (5) beginning HORACIO G. TAN, and ending DERRICK A. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN290 NAVY nomination of Natalie C. O. Gilliver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN291 NAVY nomination of John F. Sharpe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN292 NAVY nomination of Reann S. Mommsen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Clayton nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TAX REFORM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Trump administration unveiled the outlines of a tax reform plan, and, predictably, the plan has met with both praise and scorn from the usual sectors. Regardless of where the people might come down on the specifics of the President's plan, those who have been proponents of tax reform—hopefully those from both parties—should be pleased to see the President of the United States fully engaged in this effort.

For 6 years now, I have been beating the drum on tax reform. I have sought to make the case for reform here on the floor, in public forums and events, and in private conversations, and I haven't been alone. Indeed, Members from both parties have acknowledged the need to fix our broken tax system and have sought to move the ball forward on reform.

One thing I have said throughout this endeavor is that tax reform, if it is going to be successful, will require Presidential leadership, and that was not a political statement on my part. With those statements, I wasn't simply calling for the election of a Republican President; on the contrary, I repeatedly implored President Obama to engage with Congress on tax reform but really to no avail.

As of now, we finally have a President who is willing to lead in this effort. Once again, regardless of where anyone stands with regard to this President or the specifics of his tax plan, the fact that he is willing to meaningfully engage with Congress and the public on these issues should be viewed as a welcome sign for all tax reform advocates, regardless of their party affiliation.

With regard to the specifics of the outline, I believe the President has laid out a set of critical core principles that should hopefully serve as guideposts as the effort moves forward. Most importantly, the plan is designed, first and foremost, to grow the economy, and it would certainly do that.

In addition, the plan would greatly simplify the Tax Code to make it fair-

er, particularly for individuals and families, which has been a shared goal of tax reformers from both parties and from both sides of the aisle. For instance, over two-thirds of taxpayers take the standard deduction. Those taxpayers tend to be concentrated in the middle and lower income brackets. Under the President's plan, married couples would see the standard deduction doubled, so that they would not pay taxes on the first \$24,000 of income. It would reduce rates for both large and small businesses and job creators, which is also something both Republicans and Democrats have sought to accomplish in tax reform.

Overall, the President's tax plan would make our country more competitive in the international marketplace and reduce the tax burden on millions of middle-class families.

Clearly, as the effort moves forward, Congress and the administration will have to fill in the specifics. We will need to see how the numbers work out and where the votes are for any particular reform proposal. This is going to take some time, but, as the chairman of the Senate's tax-writing committee, I believe we can be ready to move in relatively short order. I intend to work closely with my colleagues on the Finance Committee, our leadership here in the Senate, leaders in the House, and, of course, the administration to finalize a reform package and get it across the finish line. The last major tax overhaul in the United States was more than 30 years ago, so we have a once-in-a-lifetime or once-in-a-generation opportunity in front of us, and I intend to do all I can to ensure that we make the most of it.

When I say "we," I am not simply referring to Republicans in Congress and the White House; I am referring to anyone who recognizes the problems in our current tax system and is willing to do the necessary work to fix those problems. My hope is that this will be a bipartisan exercise. By and large, Republicans appear ready and willing to work with the President to get tax reform done, and I am working to find some willing partners among my friends on the other side of the aisle.

I have said many times that tax reform should not have to be a partisan exercise. Our current tax system imposes undue burdens and undue hardships on Republican and Democratic voters alike. Therefore, both Republicans and Democrats in Congress should be willing to relieve these hardships, and, as I have stated here on the floor on numerous occasions, I am willing to work with anyone, Republican or Democrat, to make this effort successful.

That said, I haven't been all that encouraged by the rhetoric we are hearing from our friends on the other side of the aisle on these issues. Setting aside statements we have heard about the policies in the President's plan or

elsewhere, the Senate Democratic leadership at times seems bound and determined to ensure that no Member of their party engages on these issues.

Most recently, the Senate minority leader has insisted on two conditions before he will agree to work with Republicans on tax reform.

The first condition is that Republicans commit to not moving tax reform through the budget reconciliation process. This is an odd demand, one that is, quite frankly, unprecedented in the modern history of tax policy. Certainly, the reconciliation process makes it easier to move reform through Congress on a partisan basis, but, historically speaking, most major tax bills that have moved through reconciliation have had bipartisan support. There is no reason, if agreements are reached on policy, that Democrats could not agree to support a tax reform package moved through reconciliation, so taking it categorically off the table before discussions even begin seems, at best, counterintuitive.

History tells us that reconciliation need not be partisan. In fact, when Republicans have had control of both Houses of Congress and the White House, we have enacted tax reconciliation bills that have enjoyed some Senate Democratic support.

It is also worth noting that at various points in the recent past, Republicans have stayed at the negotiating table, participating in formal and informal discussions on major policy matters with reconciliation instructions in place and without any assurances that reconciliation would not be used. Are Democrats going to be more amenable to compromising on policy if reconciliation is not on the table? It is hard to see why that would be the case. Taking reconciliation off the table would really only make it easier for Democrats to prevent any kind of tax reform from passing.

So, essentially, what some of my Democratic colleagues are saying is that before they will even enter into talks on tax reform, they want us to ensure upfront that they will have the ability to block the bill once it is brought up. As I said, that is an odd demand, and not one you would expect to hear from someone who is willing to negotiate in good faith.

My colleagues' second precondition for working with us on tax reform is that President Trump release his tax returns. Like their first demand, this one makes me doubt whether the Senate Democratic leadership really wants to be constructive on tax reform. This is a political demand, pure and simple, likely poll-tested and focus-grouped to please the Democrats' base. I don't imagine this demand is really about uncovering conflicts of interest in tax reform. If it is, it is a horribly misguided strategy.

After all, if tax reform were to succeed, the President is only one small part of the equation. There are 435 Members of the House of Representa-

tives and 100 Senators, all of whom would be called upon to vote either for or against the tax reform bill, and whether a Member of Congress supports or opposes a particular bill, a conflict of interest could potentially influence that decision, just as one could theoretically influence a President's decision to sign or veto a bill. Yet I don't hear anyone from the other side of the aisle demanding the release of the tax returns of every Member of Congress before we can even start working on a bill. That has never been a prerequisite for working on tax legislation in the past, and it certainly should not be a prerequisite in the future.

In any event, despite these unreasonable demands, I will once again state that I am more than willing to work with my Democratic colleagues on tax reform, and I sincerely hope at least some of them will be willing to do so. I have been in the Senate for a while now. I think I have more than sufficiently demonstrated my willingness to put partisan differences aside and to reach across the aisle.

Make no mistake, I believe Republicans can move a tax reform package on a purely partisan basis. We have the procedural mechanism in place that would allow us to do that. But my strong preference would be to find a bipartisan pathway forward, and I hope that can be achieved.

Speaking more broadly, whether we move forward on a partisan or bipartisan basis, being successful on tax reform is going to require that we practice the art of the doable. There are a lot of ideas out there on tax reform and no shortage of competing interests. I have my own ideas and proposals that I have been working on for a number of years that I would like to see included in the final package. However, no idea should be considered more important than the broader goals of tax reform. That goes for my ideas and those of anyone else in Congress or in the administration.

There is a great deal of consensus among Republicans on the most important tax reform policies and principles. In fact, I would say we agree on roughly 80 percent of the key issues, which is a good starting point. I will not go into specifics today, but there are some high-profile items in the remaining 20 percent, and there are some differences of opinion regarding most of those items.

Bridging that gap and finding the path forward is going to take some serious negotiation and compromise. My hope is that people will be willing to adjust their expectations and bend on their preferences in order to achieve success in this very important endeavor. Speaking for myself, I can say that I would be willing to do so, and I have confidence that my colleagues who will also be playing leadership roles in this effort are similarly willing. Perhaps most importantly, I believe the President and his advisers in the adminis-

tration are willing to make the necessary compromises to finally make tax reform a success.

This is the closest we have been to success in tax reform in the past three decades. I hope both parties, both Chambers, both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue are up to that challenge.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, late last night, due to the hard work and diligence of the staffs of the Appropriations Committees on both sides of the aisle in both Houses, the staff of the leadership, and so many others, we were able to come to a bipartisan agreement on a bill to fund the government through September. Most importantly, this agreement takes the threat of a government shutdown off the table. It is also a good agreement for the American people.

The bill ensures taxpayer dollars are not used to fund an ineffective border wall; it excludes over 160 poison pill riders; and it increases investments in programs that the middle class relies on, like education, infrastructure, and medical research.

It includes a permanent extension for health benefits for miners. Here, I want to praise—and I can't give enough praise—to the Senator from West Virginia, JOE MANCHIN, who was relentless even after disappointment after disappointment, at holding the Senate's feet to the fire and making sure this was done. Many miners can rest easy tonight—people who have worked so hard all their lives and had so much disappointment—because of JOE MANCHIN's work and what we put into the bill.

There is also funding to shore up Puerto Rico's Medicaid Program, and \$2 billion to help States like California, West Virginia, Louisiana, and North Carolina recover from recent natural disasters.

The bill also includes a significant increase in NIH funding, which deals with cancer research and the Cancer Moonshot that both President Obama and Vice President Biden pushed for and continues onward, and a restoration of year-round Pell grants that will benefit about 1 million students. College is often the ladder up for a lot of students, and this will help them stay on that ladder.

And the bill includes significantly increased funding for infrastructure, as well as funding to combat the scourge of opioid abuse which affects all parts

of the country—urban areas, suburban areas, rural areas. It affects the poor, the middle class, and the rich.

Good news: It protects 99 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency's budget so their quest to keep our water and air clean will be able to continue. It increases funding for clean energy research as well. That is one of the great hopes for jobs in this country, as our Senator from Washington, MARIA CANTWELL, constantly reminds us.

For my home State of New York, I was particularly pleased the agreement supports critical programs that are greatly needed and very popular in my State, like the Community Development Block Grant Program, which so many smaller cities depend on; the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to get pollution out of all the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie being on the shores of New York; and the vital TIGER Grant Program, which has done so much to support infrastructure, road building, and highways throughout my State and throughout America.

As I said, the bill explicitly precludes the use of any of this funding for a border wall. This is an idea that both parties rejected. A load of Congressmen and Senators on the Republican side have said that the wall doesn't make sense. In fact, you couldn't find one Republican on the border in the States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas who supported that wall. Why? Unlike the President's promise, Mexico is not paying for it. There is no plan for the wall. We don't even know where we would build it. The Secretary of the Interior, President Trump's appointee, said: We can't build it from the U.S. side because it cuts us off from the river. Mexico will not build on their side. Where are we going to build it? In the middle of the river? And, mainly, because it is not very effective—you can tunnel under a wall.

We all want to prevent the scourge of drugs from coming across our border; so many of them come in little planes and boats. When they come by land, they are often hidden in parts of cars, in the carburetor or the exhaust tank—hidden. They will be able to come through because the wall obviously is going to have portals in it where trucks and cars can go through. So there is no money for the border wall, not one plug nickel.

We do have money, of course, for border protection, which both parties have always supported, and comprehensive immigration reform. Senator McCain and I, in a bipartisan bill supported by 68 Members of this body, made sure we had very strong border protection. But it has to be smart, it has to be cost effective, and it has to work.

Early on in this debate, Democrats clearly laid out our principles and insisted there would be no poison pill riders in this bill. We were able to knock out more than 160 poison pill riders from the final agreement, including

the border wall, anti-labor measures that hurt the working people of America, and efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. So many women depend on these clinics for their health. And we were able to achieve significant investments in domestic programs that help the middle class and those struggling to get to the middle class.

Of course, this bill doesn't include all the things we wanted, but that is the nature of compromise. At the end of the day, this is an agreement that reflects our basic principles—something that both Democrats and Republicans can support. It took a few extra days, but we got a very good agreement.

I want to thank my friend, the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. He worked very hard to get a good bill. I thank the chairmen and ranking members of the House-Senate Appropriations Committees, particularly Senator LEAHY from Vermont in our Chamber. I thank Speaker RYAN and Leader PELOSI and all of their staff for working so hard last week and over the weekend to forge an agreement.

I must tell you, and I must tell my colleagues, the negotiations between our two sides were consistently productive and always respectful. Throughout the process, both Republican and Democratic Members and staff negotiated in good faith because we all wanted to get something done. I believe this experience bodes well for the 2018 budget and future negotiations between our two parties on appropriations. If we can show the same desire to get things done—the same mutual respect, the same ability to compromise—we can get a darn good budget for the year 2018 without the specter of a government shutdown hanging over the country's head.

I wish to say one final thing. It shows that when our Republican colleagues are willing to work with us, we can get things done. All too often—particularly from the White House—this attitude is just do it our way, my way or the highway. That is what happened on the healthcare bill—no consultation with Democrats. That is what happened on this little tax plan.

When you don't do things in a bipartisan way, it is much harder to pass things. It is much harder to get a product that is at the consensus of where America is. I hope that not only will this successful negotiation on the 2017 appropriations bill be a model for the 2018 bill but a broader model that we can all work together to get things done for the country we love.

I expect we will vote on this bill later this week, and I believe it will receive overwhelming support in this Chamber.

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. CRAPO. 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.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today in support of Jay Clayton, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In the interest of time, I will save my longer remarks for later.

As demonstrated at the Banking Committee's nomination hearing, Mr. Clayton is eminently qualified to serve on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC.

He impressed both Republicans and Democrats and was voted out of committee on a bipartisan vote of 15 to 8. His extensive expertise and experience in our financial markets will be a benefit to the Commission and to the American people.

His testimony about the need to make our capital markets more attractive, which would rejuvenate their ability to invest in the United States and grow and create jobs, was well received. Additionally, he pledged to members of this committee and to the American people that he will show no favoritism to anyone.

While some have raised issues about his previous work potentially creating conflicts, Mr. Clayton is not new in this regard, nor will he be any less vigilant to ensure that he acts appropriately and ethically.

I will be supporting his nomination and look forward to having him at the SEC, where he can help protect and promote the success of our security markets and our investors.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is expired.

CLOTURE MOTION

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 nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Thune, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Hoeben	Rubio
Carper	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott
Cochran	Kennedy	Shaheen
Collins	King	Shelby
Corker	Lankford	Strange
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	McCain	Thune
Cruz	McCaskill	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Nelson	Young

NAYS—36

Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Peters
Booker	Harris	Reed
Brown	Heinrich	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Durbin	Heller
Flake	Isakson

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

The assistant majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jay Clayton to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Executive Calendar No. 36.

On vote No. 117, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 36.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-07, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kenya for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$253 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kenya.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$253 million.
Total \$253 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.
Non-MDE:
Twelve (12) MD 530F Weaponized Aircraft.
Twenty-four (24) Heavy Machine Gun Pod (HMP) 400 Systems.
Twenty-four (24) M260 Rocket Launchers.
Four thousand and thirty-two (4,032) M151 Rockets.

One thousand five hundred and thirty-six (1,536) 2.75-inch M274 Smoke signature Warhead Rockets.

Four hundred thousand (400,000) rounds of .50 Caliber Ammunition.

Also included is communications and navigation equipment, contractor logistics support, training, U.S. Government technical assistance, airframe and weapon system spare parts support, Contractor Field Service Representative (CFSR) support, and Special Airlift Assignment Mission (SAAM) flight delivery support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UDQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 1, 2017.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kenya—MD 530 Aircraft

The Government of Kenya has requested a possible sale of twelve (12) MD 530F weaponized aircraft to include twenty-four (24) Heavy Machine Gun Pod (HMP) 400 systems; twenty-four (24) M260 rocket launchers; four thousand and thirty-two (4,032) M151 rockets; one thousand five hundred and thirty-six (1,536) 2.75-inch M274 smoke signature warhead rockets; and four hundred thousand (400,000) rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. Also included are communications and navigation equipment, contractor logistics support, training, U.S. Government technical assistance, airframe and weapon system spare parts support, Contractor Field Service Representative (CFSR) support, and Special Assigned Airlift Mission (SAAM) flight delivery support. The total estimated cost is \$253 million.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a strong regional partner who is a regional security leader, undertaking critical operations against al-Shabaab, and a troop contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The proposed sale of the MD 530F helicopters, weapons, ammunition, support items and technical support will advance Kenya's efforts to conduct scout and attack rotary wing aircraft operations in support of their AMISOM mission. The MD 530F will also replace Kenya's aging MD500 fleet, which is the current reconnaissance platform supporting Kenyan ground forces. This sale will significantly enhance the Kenyan Army's modernization efforts and increase interoperability with the U.S. Armed Forces and other partners in the region. Additionally, a strong national defense and dedicated military force will assist Kenya in its efforts to maintain stability in East Africa.

Kenya will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be MD Helicopters, Mesa, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately twelve (12) additional contractor representatives in country for a period of 12 months.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. The storied history of this uniquely American fashion dates back to 1909 when Joseph Haspel designed the first seersucker suit at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel.

During the hot summer months, Americans across the country have worn and enjoyed this lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker. Mr. Haspel said it best, "hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living." In the 1990s, Members of this Chamber established Seersucker Day to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives by designating Wednesday, June 11, as National Seersucker Day. I have continued this tradition in the U.S. Senate and wish to designate Thursday, June 8, as the fourth annual National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, there is no place on this planet like the Crown of the Continent, Glacier National Park.

For over 100 years, families have flocked to Glacier National Park to experience the breathtaking views, unique wildlife, and the pristine landscapes that can't be found anywhere else on earth.

In fact, last year, more than 2.3 million people visited Glacier National Park to hike above Lake McDonald, bike across the Continental Divide, and experience the Going to the Sun Road.

Today we mark the next chapter of the distinctive history of Glacier National Park. Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park have collectively become the first transcontinental National Parks to secure "dark sky" status.

To achieve this prestigious status, Glacier National Park has retrofitted nearly 30 percent of its light fixtures and is committing to continue to identify ways to limit artificial light within the park.

By achieving this status, Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks have provided the public with even more reasons to explore the outdoors in northwest Montana and southwest Alberta.

Not only do dark skies play an important role in outdoor recreation and late-night stargazing, but they are critical to wildlife migrations and habitats within the parks.

This wouldn't be possible without Glacier Park superintendent Jeff Mow.

Their leadership has ushered Glacier National Park into a new era and provided millions of folks around the world with the opportunity to fall in love again with our great outdoors.

Thank you again for your outstanding work.●

TRIBUTE TO ROB OLIVER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the distinguished career, service, and leadership of Augustana University president Rob Oliver.

His 11 years of leadership as the 23rd president of Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, have highlighted his servant's heart, visionary attitude, and passion for higher education. As he prepares for this next chapter in life, I would like to honor Rob's dedication and efforts to not only continue the university's rich history of providing students with a quality, liberal arts education, but also for his commitment to ensuring future students are given the opportunity to advance their studies and given the foundation to live a life of purpose at Augustana University.

President Oliver joined the university after being incredibly involved in the Sioux Falls financial, business, and philanthropic community. For many years, Rob pursued efforts to improve the economic vitality of the region and was also active as a board member and devoted volunteer for many organizations, including the board of trustees of then-Augustana College.

Rob's presidential tenure occurred during a time of uncertainty for many colleges and universities across the country. With the rising costs of higher education, enrollment challenges, nationwide economic troubles, and a growing discourse regarding the value of a college degree, many traditional institutions were struggling to chart a sustainable path forward.

However, through President Oliver's ability to inspire others, offer a strategic vision, and execute a thorough plan of action, he has responded to those difficulties and strengthened Augustana's mission to deliver a quality, well-rounded experience for students, faculty, and staff.

Under Rob's direction, Augustana has attained a number of accomplishments. Many will point to the critical investments in the Froiland Science Complex and Mikkelsen Library and others will point to record-setting monetary support and vastly increased endowment and scholarship programs as remarkable accomplishments; yet it is also worthwhile to note the university's advancement of the Civitas honors program, new academic majors and curriculum, expanded undergraduate research, and an expansion of online offerings for undergraduate, graduate, and adult students. Additionally, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Student Success Center were created to provide important

strategic partnerships and vocational engagement.

Knowing the university's ability to attract students also depends on factors and opportunities outside the scholastic realm. President Oliver's era of leadership also included growth in the performing and visual arts, study abroad programs, and the construction and renovation of first-class, athletic facilities such as Kirkeby-Over Stadium, Ronken Field, and other projects through unprecedented, charitable gifts.

The university has already seen the fruits of Rob's diligent work. With enrollment at a 26-year high, scholarships and financial aid for 100 percent of its fulltime students, two NCAA national championships, a well-respected place among the Nation's top educational institutions, and additional projects already staged for the future, there is little doubt his 25 years as part of Augustana University, whether as a trustee, member of the faculty, or finally as president, President Oliver's outstanding legacy will leave an impact for many years to come.

I wish Rob, his wife, Angela, and the entire family the very best as we celebrate his service to Augustana University and the people of South Dakota.●

RECOGNIZING HOOSIER CROSSFIT

• Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, my home State of Indiana takes pride in its long tradition of Hoosier innovation and small business entrepreneurship. Hoosier businesses across Indiana strive to create quality products and services that become integral parts of their local communities. During National Small Business Week, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize one such small business. Located in Bloomington, IN, Hoosier CrossFit is well known for its strong commitment to its core values: community, quality, accountability, diligence, and integrity. As a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to recognize Hoosier CrossFit as one of Indiana's outstanding small businesses during National Small Business Week.

Hoosier CrossFit is owned and operated by husband and wife Shaun and Jenna Tieman. The Tiemans, both born and raised in Indiana, are hard-working Hoosier entrepreneurs who opened Hoosier CrossFit, then an 1,800-square-foot facility with four gym members, in 2010. By 2013, Hoosier CrossFit had moved to a 5,600 square foot facility with 150 members. Today Hoosier CrossFit and the Tiemans are gearing up for yet another expansion as they plan to move their 200-member gym to a brand-new, 8,600 square foot facility in Bloomington. Hoosier CrossFit offers programs for all ages and abilities and the 200-member community spans in age from 8 years old to 75 years old.

Hoosier CrossFit is not just to be admired for its business success or the community of Hoosiers that it has inspired and brought together over the

years. They are also to be commended for their community involvement, whether it be organizing its largest annual fundraiser, Murph, which honors U.S. Navy Seal Michael P. Murphy who was killed in action in Afghanistan, or raising over \$30,000 for the American Red Cross and Wish for Our Heroes, Hoosier CrossFit is a small business that all Hoosiers can be proud of. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the employees, owners, and entire community at Hoosier CrossFit for earning this recognition during National Small Business Week. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 28, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 99 Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on April 28, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 317. A bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-34).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 652. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 849. A bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control.

S. 916. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 920. A bill to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

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. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 991. A bill to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 992. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 993. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service and from imposing certain regulations on providers of such service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 994. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 995. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 996. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 997. A bill to permit employees to request, and to ensure employers consider requests for, flexible work terms and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 998. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 999. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1000. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 148. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 180

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 180, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 307

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 307, a bill to enhance the database of emergency response capabilities of the Department of Defense.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the Child and Dependent Care

Tax Credit and make the credit fully refundable.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 568, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 652

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 760

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 760, a bill to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 766, a bill to amend titles 10 and 32, United States Code, to improve and enhance authorities relating to the employment, use, status, and benefits of military technicians (dual status), and for other purposes.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2017, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 845

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to protect sensitive community locations from harmful immigration enforcement action, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control.

S. 856

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 856, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

S. 920

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 920, a bill to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans through the use of telemedicine, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 976, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have served in the Republic of Vietnam for all purposes under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 75, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals in the world.

S. RES. 106

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 106, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

S. RES. 114

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 114, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on humanitarian crises in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 998. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in recent years the American people have lost trust in the Federal government to keep our personally identifiable information, or PII, secure. In June of 2015 the Office of Personnel Management was infiltrated with a major cyber breach, affecting more than 22 million current and former federal employees,

including myself. In January of 2016, another nearly half a million Americans had their social security numbers stolen when the Internal Revenue Service was hacked.

I spent 28 years in the private sector, 12 years with a global cloud computing company. We faced cyber threats daily, and our customers expected security of their data. We delivered and not once was our data compromised. And we certainly did not give it out voluntarily. When there is an opportunity to protect our PII, we need to act on it and begin to rebuild trust with the American people.

In 1984, the public disclosure of certain manifest information was required of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The original intent was to increase competition, to facilitate better public analysis of import trends, and to allow port authorities and transportation companies to more easily identify potential customers and changes in their industries. However, in recent years, PII of relocating individuals, bringing their home goods back to the United States, has been released, enabling identity theft, credit card fraud, and unwanted solicitations.

CBP does offer a process for consumers of shipping services to make their information confidential. However, these forms typical take two months to process and are often processed after the individual has moved.

That is why I am introducing the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act. This legislation will simply require CBP to remove personally identifiable information from vessel manifest sheets before making them available for public disclosure. I believe the default should be to protect peoples' privacy and automatically remove this personal information, rather than requiring citizens to make a request and hope the paperwork is processed in time.

I want to thank Senator PETERS for being an original cosponsor of this bill. I ask my Senate colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 998

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 "Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act".

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

Paragraph (2) of section 431(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—

"(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to

pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or

"(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5 of the United States Code.

"(B) The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including social security numbers, passport numbers, and residential addresses, are removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or transmitted under this section before the manifest is disclosed to the public."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 148—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 5, 2017

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 148

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach the students' potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for children of the families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 44 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2016–2017 school year, more than 6,950 public charter schools served more than 3,100,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 400,000 students in 2001 to 3,100,000 students in 2017, a sevenfold increase in 16 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 190 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in 17 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, and compared to peers of traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in mathematics;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was an estimated 7 percent growth in charter school enrollment between fall 2015 and fall 2016; and

Whereas the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 1 through May 5, 2017: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 209. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 209. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017; as follows:

On page 6, beginning on line 9, strike “and” and all that follows through line 17 and insert the following:

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following new paragraph:

“(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and”.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2017, AS “SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY”

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 135.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 135) expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2017, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 24, 2017, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2017, IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 371 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 371) to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Corker amendment at the desk be 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. 209) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To require that the comparative report on peacekeeping operations include an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates)

On page 6, beginning on line 9, strike “and” and all that follows through line 17 and insert the following:

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following new paragraph:

“(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and”.

The bill (S. 371), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

S. 371

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 “Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act”.

SEC. 2. OVERSIGHT BY COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) OMNIBUS DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 1986.—Section 104(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, as added by section 101 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—Section 118(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(c) OVERSIGHT OF AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEACEKEEPER ABUSES.—Section 301(a) of the

Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(d) WORKFORCE RIGHTSIZING REPORT.—Section 405(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(e) CONSULAR IMMUNITY.—Subsection (b)(2) of section 4 of the Diplomatic Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 254c), as added by section 501 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), is amended by striking “of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations” and inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations”.

(f) WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.—Section 602(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”; and

(2) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Relations”;

SEC. 3. PEACEKEEPING TRAINING.

Section 301 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “enhance the discovery” and inserting “investigate allegations”;;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “adequately respond to complaints about such offenses by carrying out swift and effective disciplinary action against the personnel” and inserting “appropriately hold accountable personnel”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including compensation to victims, as appropriate” after “responses to such offenses”;

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “any individual who commits an act” and inserting “personnel who are found to have committed acts”; and

(3) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “noteworthy”.

SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL.

Section 310 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “The descriptions referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following elements” and inserting “In addition to the descriptions referred to in subsection (a), each such candidate shall be urged to describe the following”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “such 1” and inserting “such agenda”.

SEC. 5. POLICY REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

Section 311(a)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) which has been designated as a Tier 3 country in the annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107); or

“(F) which is identified as having failed to prevent or address gross violations of human rights in the annual Department of State

Human Rights Report under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Trade Act of 1974.”.

SEC. 6. COMPARATIVE REPORT ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS.

Section 313 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”;

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following new paragraph:

“(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and”.

SEC. 7. LATERAL ENTRY INTO THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 404(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “outstanding”.

SEC. 8. COMBATING INTOLERANCE.

The section heading of section 419 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “ANTI-SEMITISM” and inserting “INTOLERANCE”.

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTION REGARDING COMPLETION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.

Section 603(f)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “section 362” and inserting “section 602(c)”.

SEC. 10. BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 703(b)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by striking “any significant restructuring.”.

SEC. 11. RANSOMS TO FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 709(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323) is amended by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” before “transmit”.

SEC. 12. RESTORATION OF TIBET REPORT.

Section 613 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228, 22 U.S.C. 6901 note), as amended by section 715(b)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting the following: “POLICY.—”

“(1) IN GENERAL.—”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as paragraph (2) and moving such paragraph, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and

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

“(b) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2021, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

“(1) the steps taken by the President and the Secretary in accordance with subsection (a)(1); and

“(2) the status of any discussions between the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.”.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 148, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 148) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 2; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Clayton nomination, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Clayton nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent

that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

GULF OF MEXICO OIL DRILLING MORATORIUM

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there has been a longstanding question of whether there would be drilling for oil in the eastern Gulf of Mexico off of the State of Florida.

This had been settled in law 10 years ago. Then, my colleague Senator Mel Martinez and I passed a portion of legislation called GOMESA. That portion of the legislation put the drilling off of Florida in the eastern Gulf—everything east of a north-south line called the Military Mission Line, which is a line running south of approximately Fort Walton Beach—everything east of that is off limits in law to any kind of oil drilling activity, along with the remainder of the coast of Florida; 125 miles from the coast going all the way over to Pensacola and to the Perdido River, which is the Alabama-Florida line.

The reasons for this are many, but not the least of which is called the Military Mission Line. That area of the Gulf off of Florida is the largest testing and training area for the United States military in the world. Compared to other testing ranges, such as the Nevada Test Site—it dwarfs that site. As we can see, from north to south, we have ranges as far as 300 miles from east to west. For example, off of Naples, FL, all the way west to the Military Mission Line is approximately 250 miles. That has been needed by our U.S. military because of the testing and training.

It has been doubted over the years as the relentless pursuit of oil drilling by the oil industry has tried to erode into that, and that is why, in a bipartisan way, Senator Martinez and I put in law for the period of years through 2022, from when we passed this back in 2006, it off limits.

The question is, What is coming afterward? Well, of course if it is up to the Department of Defense, there will be no oil drilling activity. That is what I wanted to bring to the attention of the Senate today.

Two previous Secretaries of Defense in Republican administrations, including Secretary Rumsfeld, have written letters to state the policy that any oil-related activity in that testing and training range would be incompatible with the mission of the testing and training of the U.S. military.

The reason I am bringing this to the attention of the Senate today is that a letter signed by the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness has just come into my possession. A gentleman named Mr. A.M. Kurta writes:

I have been asked to respond to your letter—

This is to Congressman MATT GAETZ—

on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

This is regarding the maintaining of the moratorium on oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico beyond the year 2022. The letter states:

The Department of Defense (DoD) cannot overstate the vital importance of maintaining this moratorium.

Why is that? The letter goes on to explain not only the necessity of which so many of our bases in the area—Tyn dall Air Force Base in Panama City, all the testing and training of the F-22, the training of our pilots there; Eglin Air Force Base, the testing and the training of the pilots for the F-35. Remember, the F-35 is being sold to many foreign nations, the testing and training of those pilots, as well, but now, with new technologies—I quote from the letter:

Emerging technologies such as hypersonics, autonomous systems, and advanced sub-surface systems will require enlarged testing and training footprints, and increased DoD reliance on the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act's moratorium beyond 2022. The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining our nation's future combat capabilities.

So I think it is pretty clear.

There is one other issue. This all follows the fact that this Senator filed a bill last January to extend this moratorium. I will point out that just recently a bipartisan delegation from Florida—a majority of the Members of the Florida delegation, bipartisan—signed a letter to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense requesting the extension of this moratorium in law past the year 2022. The response from the Department of Defense has come today.

There is one further issue, and that is, if it is off limits to oil drilling in law, is there any question that it ought to be off limits to seismic testing? To the author of the original legislation 10 years ago, that should be clear, but—therefore we ought to clarify it. The request of the Department of Defense is:

[A] question arose concerning whether Congress intended the moratorium to prohibit even geological and geophysical survey activities in the eastern Gulf. We would welcome clarification from Congress concerning this matter.

So it will be this Senator's intent, joining in a bipartisan way with colleagues from Florida, to get that clarification in extending the moratorium.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 26, 2017.

Hon. MATT GAETZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GAETZ: Thank you for your letter dated March 24, 2017, regarding maintaining the moratorium on oil and

gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico beyond 2022. Since military readiness falls under my purview, I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of the Secretary of Defense. The Department of Defense (DoD) cannot overstate the vital importance of maintaining this moratorium.

National security and energy security are inextricably linked and the DoD fully supports the development of our nation's domestic energy resources in a manner that is compatible with military testing, training, and operations. As mentioned in your letter, the complex of eastern Gulf of Mexico operating areas and warning areas provides critical opportunities for advanced weapons testing and joint training exercises. The moratorium on oil and gas "leasing, pre-leasing, and other related activities" ensures that these vital military readiness activities may be conducted without interference and is critical to their continuation. Emerging technologies such as hypersonics, autonomous systems, and advanced sub-surface systems will require enlarged testing and training footprints, and increased DoD reliance on the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act's moratorium beyond 2022. The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining our nation's future combat capabilities.

Since signing the 1983 "Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf," the two departments have worked cooperatively to ensure offshore resource development is compatible with military readiness activities. During recent discussions between the DoD and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, a question arose concerning whether Congress intended the moratorium to prohibit even geological and geophysical survey activities in the eastern Gulf. We would welcome clarification from Congress concerning this matter.

On behalf of the Secretary, I appreciate your interest in sustaining our testing and training activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

A.M. KURTA,
*Performing the Duties
of the Under Secretary
of Defense for
Personnel and Readiness.*

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in conclusion, we can't have oil drilling, not only for our national security and the testing and training of our most sophisticated weapons systems in the Gulf off of Florida, but also we couldn't stand it if we had another oil spill that would do to us what the last one did. It was a spill way far west off of Louisiana, but it drifted to the east and blackened the sugary white sands of Pensacola Beach and Destin Beach, and there were tar balls as far east as Panama City Beach. Because of that, we lost an entire season of our guests, our tourists. They did not come to the Gulf Coast of Florida, not just in the Florida panhandle but all the way south down the Gulf to Naples and to Marco Island—a \$60 billion per year tourism industry for Florida's economy. We can't suffer that kind of shock again.

So whether it be the degradation of the environment, the messing up of the training and testing of our U.S. military and their largest testing and training range, or the devastating eco-

nomic loss to Florida of its tourism industry—for all those reasons, we need to pass this legislation. It will be coming forth in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 01, 2017:

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD A. BROWN
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES S. BYNUM
REAR ADM. (LH) DARYL L. CAUDLE
REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD A. CORRELL
REAR ADM. (LH) RANDY B. CRITES
REAR ADM. (LH) DANIEL H. FILLION
REAR ADM. (LH) COLLIN P. GREEN
REAR ADM. (LH) MARY M. JACKSON
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES W. KILBY
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES J. MALLOY
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN W. TAMMEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KEVIN M. JONES
CAPT. THOMAS J. MOREAU

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID G. BELLON
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. HERMESMANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. EDWARD D. BANTA
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT F. CASTELLVI
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW G. GLAVY
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL S. GROEN
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN M. HAMS
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. MULLEN III
BRIG. GEN. GREGG P. OLSON
BRIG. GEN. ERIC M. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL S. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES H. ADAMS III
COL. ERIC E. AUSTIN
COL. JAY M. BARGERON
COL. MICHAEL J. BORGSCHULTE
COL. WILLIAM J. BOWERS
COL. DIMITRI HENRY
COL. KEITH D. REVENTLOW
COL. ROBERTA L. SHEA
COL. BENJAMIN T. WATSON
COL. CHRISTIAN F. WORTMAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRYAN P. FENTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARRELL K. WILLIAMS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DAVID H. LEWIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MATHIAS W. WINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN L. PARODE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN P. POLOWCZYK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JON A. HILL

REAR ADM. (LH) GORDON D. PETERS

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF RAYMOND C. JONES III, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER E. AUSTIN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT D. HOUGHTLING AND ENDING WITH CARL H. SPEARS, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LISA ANN BANYASZ AND ENDING WITH JULIE L. WIBLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LORI J. BETTERS AND ENDING WITH LISA S. SHEAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JAMES A. CRIDER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSE E. BARRERA AND ENDING WITH DAVID H. ZONIES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRISTIN L. ADER AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER C. VANNATTA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGG MICHAEL CAGGIANELLI AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM SCOTT WIECHER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICK W. ALBRECHT AND ENDING WITH STEPHEN S. YOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF STEPHEN N. LUKER, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TYLER J. BANACHOWSKI AND ENDING WITH MARITA N. ZGURI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONI A. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH DANIELLE C. YUEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. ALFARO AND ENDING WITH SARA M. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSICA L. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH HEATH D. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COREY R. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ANDREW J. STOY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD R. ANDERSON III AND ENDING WITH RAMON YAMBO ARIAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICK M. ALBRITTON AND ENDING WITH RAY A. ZUNIGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NEIL R. COPELAND AND ENDING WITH OLIVIA M. VAUGHAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBERT P. MCCOY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALLEN R. HENDERSON, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF GEORGE L. BURNETT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DION R. DIXON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF REBECCA A. LIPE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL N. TESFAY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MEGAN G. K. STEELE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN W. ABNER AND ENDING WITH BREANCA G. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALLEN SETH ABRAMS AND ENDING WITH THOMAS BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHAD A. BELLAMY AND ENDING WITH ANDREW L. THORNLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AIMEE L. ALVIAR AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. WHITEHORN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIE J. BABOR AND ENDING WITH MAUREEN SCHELLIE WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HECTOR L. COLONCOLON AND ENDING WITH KEVIN L. LOCKETT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BETH M. BAYKAN AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM T. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARTIN J. HAMILTON, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. BLACKBURN AND ENDING WITH JASON S. WRACHFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCOTT C. APLING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PATRICIA L. GEORGE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM J. POINTS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LARRY G. WORKMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. DUNLAP, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WAYNE O. DEHANEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHNATHAN T. PARCHEM, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB P. ABSALON AND ENDING WITH G010445, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK P. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH G010388, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMIR A. ABUKEEL AND ENDING WITH D013352, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VANESSA R. ASMUS AND ENDING WITH D013007, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL C. FLYNN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEVE L. MARTINELLI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH AIIORIO AND ENDING WITH PAUL W. ZIEGLER III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TOLULOPE O. ADEYEMI AND ENDING WITH D013585, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL J. E. AUCHINCLOSS AND ENDING WITH D012628, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RACHEL A. ACCIACCA AND ENDING WITH LAUREN E. WHITE, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER J. BROWN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL B. KING AND ENDING WITH TODD E. WAINMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN J. BOTTORFF, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EUGENE L. THOMAS III, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN T. BLEIGH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY D. BUCK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. PRECZEWSKI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CANDY BOPARAI AND ENDING WITH LINCOLN F. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES J. HASELBY AND ENDING WITH JASON T. RAMSPOTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER M. WILLARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER K. BERTHOLD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PRESTON H. LEONARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICOLE E. USSERY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. BAKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIDGET V. KMETZ, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VEDNER BELLOT AND ENDING WITH JAMES ROBINSON, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANGELA L. FUNARO AND ENDING WITH CHAD HACKLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN R. HARKI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN L. BOURIAQUE AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. LANGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY L. BAER AND ENDING WITH GERALD R. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES V. CRAWFORD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MOHAMMED S. AZIZ, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SETH C. LYDEM, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER C. OSTBY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALVIN E. FISH, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AARON E. LANE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAMIEN BOFFARDI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RANDY D. DORSEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN R. SMITH AND ENDING WITH STALIN R. SUBRAMANIAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK W. HOPKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS R. MATELSKI AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA H. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK B. HOWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JULIO COLONGONZALEZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON N. BULLOCK AND ENDING WITH GERALD A. NUNZIATO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER A. MCAFEE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NINA R. COPELAND, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALVIN E. TOWNSEND, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCOTT A. MCDONALD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS P. LUKINS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCOTT M. MCFARLAND, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY A. MILLER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH M. KILONZO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRANDI A. SCHUYLER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID J. KACZMAREK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN A. JOHNSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES A. BENSON AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM M. YANEK II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CRYSTAL J. SMITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANA B. LOVE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS A. MCKEWAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID M. WALLACE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LISA M. PATTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BASIL J. CATANZARO, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL E. ALGER, JR. AND ENDING WITH JESSICA M. WALL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANIS A. ABUZEID AND ENDING WITH CRAIG A. ZOELLNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL W. ANNUNZIATA AND ENDING WITH LEAH R. PARROTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMES R. REUSSE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSE M. ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH FRANCISCO X. ZAVALA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HENRY CENTENO, JR. AND ENDING WITH JAMES L. SHELTON, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RICHARD K. O'BRIEN, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER T. HAMBRICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY T. PLANNERY AND ENDING WITH MARK L. OLDROYD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOSEPH W. HOCKETT, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANCISCO D. AMAYA AND ENDING WITH TYSON E. PETERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL M. DODD AND ENDING WITH ROBERT J. SNODDY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DAVID S. GERSEN, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN W. GLINSKY, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KEITH A. STEVENSON, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH QUENTIN R. CARRITT AND ENDING WITH ERIC A. SHARPE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY P. GREEN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL A. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF STUART M. BARKER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD CANEDO AND ENDING WITH DAVID L. OGDEN, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN E. SIMPSON III, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SEAN T. HAYS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUKE A. CROUSON AND ENDING WITH JASON C. FLORES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARLINGTON A. FINCH, JR. AND ENDING WITH KEVIN M. TSCHERCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN J. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH DONALD R. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA P. BAHR AND ENDING WITH JANHENDRIK C. ZURLIPPE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN T. BROWN, JR. AND ENDING WITH JULIUS G. JONES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELI J. BRESSLER AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. STRAND, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHADWICK W. ARDIS AND ENDING WITH BRAD J. WILDE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DUANE A. GUMBS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF AARON B. MAYER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN J. KITT, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORGE R. BALARES, JR. AND ENDING WITH BRANDON M. ZOSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARY E. LINNELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SPENCER M. BURK AND ENDING WITH BRIANNA S. WHITTEMORE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIRK J. HIPPENSTEEL AND ENDING WITH JOHN M. RUGGERO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF EVITA M. SALLES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN P. H. RUE, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL W. AMECHE AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA J. WHITLOW, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RACHEL E. CARTER AND ENDING WITH KEVIN D. KEITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAUER BISCOTTI III AND ENDING WITH ADAM J. SUSMARSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD V. WILSON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL A. WINSLOW, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HORACIO G. TAN AND ENDING WITH DERRICK A. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NATALIE C. O. GILLIVER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN F. SHARPE, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF REANN S. MOMMSEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT JASON MARTIN

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Lieutenant Jason Martin of the Springfield Township Ambulance Corps. Lieutenant Martin grew up around the ambulance corps—often acting as a patient in training exercises when he was young. He has demonstrated his devotion for protecting his community through his work.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Lieutenant Martin has rightly been nominated as EMT of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Lieutenant Martin for his service.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD WATERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donald Waters of Cumberland, Iowa, for receiving the 2016 Top Soybean Producer Award in the United States. This honor is given by Asgrow, a division of the Monsanto Corporation. Asgrow started the national yield competition in 2012 to encourage soybean growers to increase their yield limits.

By using the Asgrow brand, Donald achieved a yield of 87.6 bushels per acre. He competed with farmers from 21 states across the country. The competition is open to all farmers who use the Asgrow brand. Jesse Hamonic, DeKalb/Asgrow Brand Lead said he is proud of Donald's management skills in achieving this high yield record.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Donald for receiving this outstanding award and for his many years of dedicated and devoted service to the agriculture community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donald for his many accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING RABBI MICHAEL SCHWAB

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my dear friend, Rabbi Michael Schwab of North Suburban Synagogue Beth

El in Highland Park, IL, and the celebration of his thirteenth year of service to the congregation and our community.

I met Rabbi Schwab when he first came to our community and immediately appreciated his compassion, his spirit and his ability to make all around him feel special. Over the years, I have come to further appreciate his leadership and wisdom, often turning to him, for guidance.

Rabbi Schwab leads by example through his keen understanding of Jewish values, strong advocacy for the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, and unwavering dedication for his community.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rabbi Schwab began his studies at Rutgers University, and later received his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and MA in Jewish Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Education. Beyond the classroom, he gained additional experience through the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Penn Foundation for Mental Health and time studying in Israel at the Hebrew University, Machon Schechter and the Conservative Yeshiva.

As a Chicago Global Justice Fellow for American Jewish World Service, Rabbi Schwab is a tireless protector and promoter of human rights, and he shares his views on ethical issues as a scholar for Jewish Values Online. He is an engaged member of the community, serving on the AIPAC National Council, the Chicago Board of Rabbis Executive Council, as a member of the Board of Directors of Solomon Schechter Day School, among others.

Through North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Rabbi Schwab serves over 1,100 families. This synagogue was founded in 1948 as the first Conservative congregation on the North Shore of Chicago.

Rabbi Schwab is married to Erica, a behavioral therapist and teacher of children with developmental disabilities, and they are the proud parents of four children: Ari, Liana, Noa and Miri.

On behalf of Illinois's Tenth Congressional District, I congratulate Rabbi Schwab for his service and look forward to his continued contributions to the life of our community.

CONGRATULATING PALATINE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Palatine on being named one of the safest cities in the United States. The Village of Palatine was named the fifty-first safest city on Neighborhood Scout's list of America's 100 Safest Cities.

Working together, law enforcement, local officials, and the community have made Palatine a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.

The residents of Palatine should never underestimate the impact that each citizen's positive actions can have. Every day there are members of the community helping to change lives, while also inspiring their peers to do the same.

I would be remiss to not also mention the wonderful job of the Palatine Police and Fire Departments. Day in and day out the men and women of the Palatine Police and Fire Departments risk their lives to protect their community. Their bravery and courage are very deserving of our recognition and admiration and I am pleased to see their service has led to Palatine being named one of the safest cities in America.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Village of Palatine, Illinois and congratulating them on being named one of the safest cities in America.

A TRIBUTE TO BURBANK TEMPLE EMANU EL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Temple Emanu El upon its 70th Anniversary. The Burbank Temple Emanu El (BTEE) is a progressive-minded, egalitarian synagogue serving Burbank and the greater San Fernando Valley. Its rich history steeped in the tenets and traditions of American Conservative Judaism dating back to 1947. Since its founding, BTEE has fostered a vibrant Jewish presence in our community and has grown from a one-room nursery on Grismer Avenue to a full-service temple with numerous programs and activities for all ages.

Today, BTEE is equipped with an award-winning Early Childhood Center, Hebrew School, and Adult Education program and encourages member participation throughout the year with weekly services, holy celebrations, simchas, and service projects. Members can also engage in tikkun olam (fixing the world) through the Temple's Social Action Committee which strengthens the congregation's ties with the surrounding community.

The time, energy, and care that this temple has given to its members and the community are extraordinary and would not be possible without the dedicated and exceptional clergy, leadership, volunteers and staff of BTEE. At this time, I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Burbank Temple Emanu El upon 70 years of service to the Burbank community.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. STAN GOOCH AND THE IMPACT HE HAD ON BOY'S BASKETBALL IN MICHIGAN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mr. Stan Gooch, of Grand Blanc, for his tremendous, lasting impact in the field of basketball in the Flint area, as well as the State of Michigan as a whole. Anyone who knew Stan will tell you that he was much more than a coach to our community. He was a man who loved his players and truly loved the game of basketball. As the Member of Congress representing the Fifth District of Michigan, I am honored to recognize his life and to have represented Stan.

In 2008, Stan was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame after building a legendary basketball program over the span of 41 years, retiring in 2000. Throughout his four decade-long career, he established himself as a genius coaching high school basketball and was recognized and respected for his skills by colleagues. During his career, he led his Flint Central basketball team to three straight Class A State Championships, from 1981 to 1983. This success, many of his fans believe, is attributed to a coaching system of 'organized chaos.'

Former players saw him as "one of the greatest high school coaches in this area." Not only was he inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame, Stan's stellar career gained him entrance into the Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame, the Michigan Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. It is worth noting, though, that he went beyond simply being his players' coach. He established himself as a mentor to several of the young men he coached, staying in their lives even after high school. He was also responsible for molding some of these high school students into successful, professional athletes.

For these and many other reasons, I feel compelled to honor the life of Stan Gooch. I hope that his legacy, as a coach and a man, will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 EARLHAM HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham High School Jazz Band for being named the Iowa Class 2A State Jazz Band Champions.

I would like to congratulate each member of the band:

Band Members:

Austin Griswold—Alto Saxophone, Eva Fisk—Alto Saxophone, Garret Taylor—Tenor Saxophone, Kaylee Hohertz—Tenor Saxophone, Kaylie Johnson—Tenor Saxophone,

John Tibben—Baritone Saxophone, Tate Rasmussen—Trombone, Natassja Reed—Trombone, Joshua Woolcott—Trombone, Jake Willem—Trombone, Gabe LeGrand—Trombone, McKenzie Von Rentzell—Trumpet, Kelsey Tibbs—Trumpet, Nick Coon—Trumpet, Ehlan Brown—Trumpet, Garion Brown—Trumpet, Haley LeGrand—Trumpet, Grant Becker—Guitar, Stephen Woolcott—Bass, Harrison Miller—Drums, Clay Griswold—Drums, Ashlynn Cutting—Piano, Elisabeth Evans—Vibes.

Director: Nate Sletten.

Mr. Speaker, the band's success this year is a testament of their hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men and women and their director for being crowned the 2017 Iowa Class 2A Jazz Band Champions and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING RETIRING BURBANK MAYOR HARRY KLEIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Harry Klein who is retiring after serving the City of Burbank as their mayor for 26 years.

Mayor Klein was first appointed mayor in 1991 after the previous mayor resigned due to health concerns. He was subsequently elected to six consecutive terms starting in 1993. He has been a resident of Burbank since 1964 and raised three children in the community. He now has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As the Mayor of Burbank, Harry has been especially active on infrastructure issues, a priority for the residents of Burbank. He was instrumental in paving sidewalks all throughout the community. He also prioritized the installation of street lights in Burbank, significantly increasing the walkability and safety of the city.

Mayor Klein has represented the interests of the residents of Burbank very well over these 26 years. He personally answered his constituents' phone calls and did his absolute best to solve whatever problems they had. In his city of 29,000 he knows many residents by name and will speak with them on the street whenever he can. Just recently I witnessed the love that residents have for Harry as they greeted him at Opening Day at Burbank American and Burbank National Little Leagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Harry Klein for his public service and congratulate him on his achievements. He is well deserving of praise for the energy he has dedicated to improving the lives of the residents of Burbank. I wish him the best in his retirement.

HASSON REDDICK FIRST ROUND NFL DRAFT PICK

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, right now, the NHL playoffs are going on but my Philadelphia Flyers are sitting in the penalty box, and as NBA teams seek the title in the NBA playoffs, sadly the Sixers have fouled out. But Philadelphians fear not! Hasson Reddick, a proud member of the Temple football team gives us all something to cheer for—because not only did he graduate already but he was picked in the First Round of the NFL DRAFT at number 13—lucky number 13.

I want to extend my congratulations to Hasson Reddick. Hasson Reddick graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia with a degree in Criminal Justice in December 2016. As you know, the NFL draft was in the City of Philadelphia last week and Line Backer Hasson Reddick was a first round draft pick at number 13.

Hasson Reddick grew up in Camden, New Jersey. His mom is an educator at a Head Start in New Jersey and always stressed the importance of getting a good education. Education was always her top priority for her son. Hasson Reddick's father would practice football with his son early in the morning every day.

Hasson Reddick started as a walk-on at Temple and was a part of the team for his entire collegiate career. Hasson Reddick is the true embodiment of perseverance. He is an example of persistence, keeping at a dream and not taking the word "no" for an answer.

Hasson Reddick has not only made his family and friends proud but he has made the City of Philadelphia and the City of Camden proud. Congrats again, way to set a wonderful example for our neighborhoods.

HONORING GARY THOMAS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of Judge Gary Thomas, who passed away on April 3, 2017, after a lifetime of service to his community.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco and the University of San Francisco School of Law, Judge Thomas joined the California Bar in 1962. From 1962 to 1968, Judge Thomas was also a member of the United States Air Force Reserve. A San Rafael resident, Judge Thomas spent his professional life serving Marin County, first as a county prosecutor, then as an assistant district attorney, then as a Judge appointed in 1972 by Governor Ronald Reagan, where he was reelected by the public several times.

Mr. Thomas was paralyzed during the 1970 shootout at the Marin County Civic Center when he was prosecuting a case of a San Quentin inmate who was charged with assaulting a prison guard. During the trial, the defendant's brother, along with others, took Judge Thomas, Judge Harold Haley, and

three female jurors, hostage. During the escape, a gunfight began. With bravery and courage, Judge Thomas was able to grab one of the assailant's guns to protect himself and the other hostages. Judge Thomas was shot near his spine which left him paralyzed from the waist down. Judge Thomas returned to work five weeks later. Related to the injury, he would suffer from kidney problems, pneumonia, and other complications throughout his life; but he continued to serve on the bench until 1999, showing strength and resilience few will ever know.

Mr. Speaker, the depth of Judge Thomas's service to his local community as well as his commitment to his family and the judiciary has left a positive legacy to many, and he will be dearly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

HONORING COACH CRAIG
ENGELBRECHT FOR HIS INDUC-
TION INTO THE MISSOURI BAS-
KETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME ON SATURDAY,
APRIL 22, 2017

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of Missouri's Third District, Coach Craig Engelbrecht, who was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, MO. Coach Engelbrecht dedicated 33 years of his life as an educator at Eugene High School, and has spent 27 of those years coaching. Coach Engelbrecht recently celebrated his 500th varsity win, and is deserving of membership in the Hall of Fame.

Coach Engelbrecht's childhood was spent in the Eugene area and he always wanted to return to that area to plant his roots. He grew up in a family that served the community by working in the school system. His mother taught in Russellville for 31 years and his Father was a custodian after a career at MFA Feed Mill in Eugene. After graduating from high school in 1979, Coach Engelbrecht spent his college years at University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. In 1983, he graduated with his degree in Physical Education and a minor in speech/drama.

In 1984, Coach Engelbrecht started his teaching career at Russellville and shortly thereafter began his coaching career. During his time at Eugene, he taught many subjects including English, Speech, and Drama, and was even responsible for putting on the annual spring play with his students. Eventually, Coach Engelbrecht began teaching Physical Education, and knowing the importance of being physically active, he always encouraged his students to participate in all activities and classes.

In 1990, Coach Engelbrecht became the head varsity boys basketball coach. He knew it was vitally important to establish a stable and hard-working program that would lay the groundwork for success on the court. The mantra for the Eugene basketball team is this:

"we play hard, we play smart, we play together, and we play fast." Coach Engelbrecht encourages his teams to use this mantra on the basketball court and in real life. He has instilled in his students and players a mentality to never quit and to always strive to achieve their goals. Coach Engelbrecht has built many relationships with his students and enjoys seeing many of them take his words of encouragement to heart and apply it to their daily lives. Additionally, he enjoys seeing former students and players begin basketball coaching and refereeing careers of their own.

Coach Engelbrecht's family is involved in the education field as well. The Eldon Career Center is currently under the direction of his wife, Kelli. The Eldon School District is where his son, Christian, is a paraprofessional. His daughter, Katelyn has played basketball and after her graduation will attend college at her father's alma mater, University of Central Missouri—Warrensburg.

Throughout his 33 year career in education, Coach Engelbrecht has seen God take care of him. He acknowledges the great support system he has and knows that without that support, he would not have achieved his level of success on the basketball court.

With his retirement from teaching, Coach Engelbrecht will be able to spend more time with his family. Kelli, Christian, and Katelyn will enjoy the additional moments they have with their beloved father. Despite his retirement from teaching, Coach Engelbrecht has not decided to hang up his coaching jersey just yet as he continues to coach boys varsity basketball at Eugene High School.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Coach Craig Engelbrecht on this induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame by the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association and on his retirement from teaching after 33 years of improving the daily lives of all those at Eugene High School, whether it be in the classroom or in the gym.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY AND DICK RYBA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cindy and Dick Ryba of Treynor, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 31, 2017.

Cindy and Dick's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

HONORING FIRST STATE BANK IN
ST. CHARLES FOR ITS 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a business in my district, First State Bank in St. Charles on its 150th Anniversary. This celebration will be held on May 10, 2017.

In 1867, First State Bank planted its roots on Main Street in St. Charles, Missouri. First State Bank has been successful for one and a half centuries, because, among other things, customer satisfaction is a top priority and ownership of the bank is shared only between local shareholders and bank employees. Since its humble beginning, First State Bank has been an independent and locally-owned community bank serving St. Charles and St. Louis residents and businesses. First State Bank's fundamental approach to customer service is simple; treat every customer like a person, not just a number. This personalized service shows the dedication this bank has to its customers and the community. First State Bank prides itself as an ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) business, which allows for the employees to own part of the bank. As a bank that is privately-held, the institution answers only to its employees and local, private stockholders. This means that decisions can be made that are in the best interest of the customers and the local community.

The growth of First State Bank has been steady and with that growth it now has 224 employees. In 2016 alone, it hired 48 new employees. First State Bank strives to maintain a philosophy to ignite energy and improve customer service and increase employee retention. This philosophy encourages the employees in four areas when it comes to serving the customers: play, make their day, be there, and to choose their attitudes.

The commitment that First State Bank has to the community is commendable. Over 66 local and national non-profit organizations benefit from charitable donations by First State Bank. Employees are encouraged to volunteer and have committed their time and talents to 32 local non-profit boards. Other organizations that appreciate First State Bank's generous employees are Oasis Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, "Team FSB" willingly coordinates school supplies, winter coats, food drives, and collects monetary donations for various non-profits throughout the year.

I ask you to join me in recognizing First State Bank on their 150th Anniversary. First State Bank is truly a community bank.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT DAVID WELSH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Sergeant David Welsh of the Springfield Township Police Department. Sergeant Welsh

has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to the community through his work, often putting his own safety at risk in order protect others. Sergeant Welsh also served his country and community as a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve for over 20 years.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Sergeant Welsh has rightly been nominated as Officer of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Sergeant Welsh for his service.

30 YEARS OF SERVICE—REVEREND ANZALONE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Alan Anzalone, born in Kansas City and raised in Deepwater, Missouri. Alan has dedicated 30 years of service to Brownington Baptist Church.

From an early age, Alan committed himself to bettering his community, helping those in need and setting an example for his peers through excelling in academics, athletics and school spirit. At age 17, Alan answered his calling from God and became Pastor of his church. Not only has he led followers to the Faith but he has also guided the renovation of the Church over the years to better suit the community's needs. I am honored to share my gratitude and respect for Reverend Alan Anzalone, and his generosity and service are an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 20, I attended a meeting at the White House to discuss important issues and policy to my home state with President Donald Trump.

Because of this meeting I missed Roll Call vote 236 on H.J. Res. 99—Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN FRANCIS GIONFRIDDO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Francis Gionfriddo on his graduation from George Mason University and wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Mr. Gionfriddo was born February 9, 1993 in Fairfax, Virginia to his parents Elizabeth and Joseph Gionfriddo. John was born with a congenital heart defect, and when he was just

three weeks old underwent heart surgery. While doctors were able to repair his heart, John suffered complications after surgery. Since he was young, John has never been intimidated by imposed limitations with regards to his disability and has pursued friendships, work, and schooling without hesitation.

In 1997, John became a big brother to his brother Andrew, and a few years later, his youngest brother, Frank. In 2008, the Gionfriddo family relocated to England where John began high school at the International Community School in London. While living abroad, John enjoyed traveling throughout Europe with his parents and brothers. In 2011, the Gionfriddo family returned to the United States where John attended Herndon High School. Eager to gain professional experience, John began an internship at Dranesville Elementary School as an Assistant to the Librarian, a position he proudly holds to this day.

In 2013, John graduated from Herndon High School and enrolled in the George Mason University Learning into Future Environments (LIFE) Program, a postsecondary education program for young adults with intellectual disabilities. John was extremely active on campus, joining the Special Olympics Basketball Team and serving as a Member of the Best Buddies Program.

Dedicated to expanding his professional skills, John participated in the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, and as a result, joined my team in September 2015 where he spent three semesters as a Congressional Intern in my Washington, D.C. Office. In this role, John was responsible for supply inventory, organizing and assigning mail, and assisting staff with day-to-day projects. John's eagerness to help others, dedication to his work, and positive outlook on life were invaluable to my team.

In his free time, John enjoys walking the family dog, Lily, listening to a variety of music, spending time at the family cabin in Pennsylvania, drinking coffee and eating out with family and friends. Throughout his life, John has been dedicated to helping others. In 2014, he was awarded the Jeff Watkins Volunteer of the Summer Award for his work with Fairfax County's Summer Therapeutic Recreation Program. He also serves on the advisory board for The Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire's film project, "Intelligent Lives".

On May 20, 2017, John will graduate from the George Mason University LIFE Program, an incredible accomplishment. Following graduation, John will begin an exciting career helping others at SourceAmerica, a company dedicated to creating jobs for individuals with disabilities. While we are disappointed Mr. Gionfriddo's time with our office has come to an end, we are excited as he begins this next chapter in his life.

While Mr. Gionfriddo may have joined my office to gain work experience and learn about government, it was truly John who taught my team about compassion, dedication, and what it means to help others. The sky is the limit for John, and I cannot wait to see what he accomplishes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. John Francis Gionfriddo on his college graduation and wishing him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AND RICHARD MOORE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janet and Richard Moore of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 2, 1967.

Janet and Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 28, 2017, I was not present for roll call votes 235, 236 and 237. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 235; Yea on roll call vote 236; and Yea on roll call vote 237.

TRIBUTE TO MARK BRANDENBURG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Brandenburg of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being inducted into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Mark is a 1973 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Mark attended Iowa Western Community College and received a degree in mathematics. After graduation, he moved on to earn a bachelor's degree in Management and Human Resources from Bellevue University. Mark's career began at the Omaha Public Power District but he was just getting started. He was eventually elected to the Council Bluffs Community School District Board, served two terms as a State Representative in the Iowa House of Representatives, and currently serves as the Pottawattamie County Recorder. Mark is active in the Council Bluffs community and has worked with the Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association, the Union Pacific Railroad Museum Board, the Senior Center Board, and the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Mark on his induction into the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mark and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING GREG MARIUS

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Greg Marius.

Known affectionately as “the Commissioner”, Mr. Marius founded the Entertainer’s Basketball Classic (EBC) at Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem in 1982. Originally conceived of as a way for rival hip-hop crews to establish blacktop bragging rights, the EBC has evolved into the world’s premier streetball basketball showcase.

A highlight on the City’s summer calendar for decades, the EBC pits playground standouts against the country’s most talented professional players, all provided free of charge to the delight of thousands of exuberant fans. NBA stars like LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Vince Carter have all played in the tournament, facing off against the best streetballers Harlem has to offer.

As one of the first people to connect basketball and hip-hop music, Mr. Marius created an all-inclusive atmosphere that celebrated the game, its culture, and its fans. Through his aggressive promotion, Mr. Marius enlisted hip-hop stars like Jay-Z, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Fat Joe, and others to sponsor teams, helping to attract corporate sponsors like Reebok and Gatorade and raise the profile of the EBC to an unprecedented level.

By remaining committed to keeping the EBC in Harlem, Mr. Marius had a far-reaching impact on our community. A lifelong Harlem resident, he often spoke of how fortunate he was to create memories in the neighborhood where he grew up. He also prided himself on keeping alive the legacy of Holcombe Rucker, the park’s namesake who founded his own tournament in 1946 that provided neighborhood youths a positive outlet to keep them off the streets.

Further, by taking a touring version of the EBC on the road to other cities Mr. Marius played an integral role in broadening streetball’s audience. Without Greg Marius, it is safe to say that New York City, specifically Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem, would not be the international symbol of basketball prowess that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay remembrance to Mr. Marius and ask that we continue to carry along his legacy and love for streetball in Harlem.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE AND LOUIS STORTENBECKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rose and Louis Stortenbecker of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 2, 2017.

Rose and Louis’ lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL MCGONIGAL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Daniel McGonigal of the Springfield Township Fire Company. Daniel joined the Company in 2013. Two years later, he decided to also answer the call to service for his country and joined the U.S. Navy. Despite his full-time service to the nation, Daniel does his most to help the Fire Company and his community when he returns home on leave.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Daniel has rightly been nominated as VFW Firefighter of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Daniel for his service.

HONORING THE DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR AND REMEMBERING THE FALL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR IN MAY 1942

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor in remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in May of 1942. From December 8, 1941 until May 6, 1942 American soldiers, marines, sailors, nurses and airmen fought along-side the members of Philippine army in defense of the Philippine Archipelago.

On December 8, 1941, a day after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, bombs were dropped on Clark Field, starting what would become known as the Philippine Campaign or the Battle of the Philippines.

On April 9, 1942, after fighting for four months without reinforcements and supplies, Major General Edward King, Jr. surrendered the forces under his command on the Bataan Peninsula. Upon surrender of the American and Filipino forces, the Japanese encountered twice as many captives as reports had estimated, thus creating an enormous logistical challenge—the transport and movement of over 60,000 starving, sick, and debilitated prisoners and over 38,000 equally weakened civilian noncombatants that had been caught up in the battle. The prisoners and refugees had to be moved north to get them out of the way of the final Japanese assault on Corregidor, but there was simply not enough mechanized transport to move the masses of wounded, sick, and weakened prisoners. The Japanese solution was to force march the 60,000 prisoners north from Mariveles to San Fernando and from Capas to Camp O’Donnell—a distance of approximately 66 miles.

This has become known as the Bataan Death March. Starting on April 9, 1942 and lasting for seven days, credible sources report widely differing prisoner of war casualties—from 5,000 to 18,000 Filipino deaths and 500 to 650 American deaths—that resulted. Forced to march without food or water, many simply could not continue. Prisoners were bayoneted, shot or buried alive if they could not walk. If any tried to escape they were shot.

The final assault on American and Filipino forces in defense of the Philippines came on May 5, 1942 with an assault on the island of Corregidor and ended on May 8, 1942—when General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered forces under his command to the Japanese commander, Lt. General Masaharu Homma of the 14th Japanese Army, thus ending the Battle for the Philippines.

For the next three and a half years Americans were held by the Japanese in the Philippines, Formosa, Korea, China and Japan in POW camps and forced to work for Japanese companies in support of the Japanese war effort. When Japan finally surrendered, American forces sent to Japan found these men and women emaciated—some weighing as little as a third of their normal weight. Suffering for three and a half years, these men and women endured unspeakable hardships and atrocities at the hands of their captors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering those who suffered so much in the name of freedom during World War II on this, the 75th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and the Battle for the Philippines. We are eternally grateful for men such as Ed Jackfert of Wellsburg, West Virginia—who is still with us—as well as those who have recently passed such as Joe Vater, Abie Abraham and Lester Tenney. These men were part of the Greatest Generation and fought in defense of their country during World War II.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of Building Safety Month, and I would like to recognize the men and women of

the International Code Council who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring the safety of Americans both in their homes and workplaces.

Building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, and others in the construction industry work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings. It is through their efforts that our nation continues to address critical safety issues in the built environment that affect our citizens, both, in everyday life and in times of natural disaster.

These individuals, who are dedicated members of the International Code Council, develop and implement the highest quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we work, live, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties, and by all 50 states. These modern building safety codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, and earthquakes.

Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential services provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting life and property. Building Safety Month, which is sponsored by the International Code Council, reminds the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unsung heroes of public safety—our local code officials—who help prevent countless fires and accidents. "Code officials: Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth," the theme for Building Safety Month 2017, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safety.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the International Code Council as they recognize Building Safety Month.

TRIBUTE TO TRUDY EVANS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Trudy Evans of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being inducted into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Trudy is a 1966 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Trudy was the first member of her extended family to graduate from college when she graduated from the University of Iowa, going on to have a distinguished career in the Council Bluffs Community School District. She served in a number of positions throughout her career including: as a curriculum strategist, a Talented and Gifted program teacher, the principal of Pusey, Lewis & Clark, Crescent, Rue, and Washington elementary schools, and finally as a teacher at the Tinley Early Childhood Center. Trudy has been recognized for her outstanding contributions as an educator, receiving the Elementary Excellence in Teaching Math Award and the Council Bluffs Teacher of the Year award. She was

also a finalist for the Iowa Teacher of the Year. Even with her busy schedule, Trudy still finds time to volunteer in her community with the Muddy Paws Second Chance organization, Children's Theater in Council Bluffs, and is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Trudy on her induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Trudy on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL DAY FLY IN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In. The first black combat aviation unit comprised of pilots and supporter personnel trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In honors the Tuskegee Airmen, the widowers and family members of the Tuskegee Airmen and talented and enthusiastic individuals all focused on the goal of honoring the heroic Tuskegee Airmen.

In 1940, the military selected Tuskegee Institute to train pilots because of its commitment to aeronautical training, its facilities, engineering and technical instructors and its suitable climate for year-round flying.

In May of 1940, the first Civilian Pilot Training Program students completed their training. "The Tuskegee Experience" later grew to become a center for African-American aviation during World War II.

These brave airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most respected fighter groups of WWII paving the way for full integration of the U.S. military. The Tuskegee Airmen exemplify the State of Alabama's priority of Public Service Excellence.

This commemoration of their legacy comes directly from the efforts and determination of over 16,000 courageous men and women and recognizes the fortitude of these individuals to stand strong in the face of adversity.

Their accomplishments gave way to the continuation on a grand scale through the introduction of American youth to the world of aviation, technology, engineering and math through local and national programs and activities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing today, May 19–20, 2017, as Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In 50th Anniversary.

IMPORTANCE OF WORK SAFETY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the men and women who

have lost their lives at work due to unsafe work conditions. In 2015, 4,836 workers were killed on the job. That's 4,836 reasons to remember the importance of work safety.

This week in Missouri's 7th Congressional District the Mid America Safety Health & Environmental Conference is being held by the Missouri Association of Manufacturers. This conference is designed to provide general work safety training while also discussing the importance of safe work environments.

As those who have lost loved ones gather at the conference this week, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will have a memorial service acknowledging those families as well as the many other families who have lost loved ones due to unsafe work conditions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the men and women and who have lost their lives due to unsafe work conditions and the families who have lost their loved ones because of this.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Warrenville, Illinois.

Warrenville, whose motto is "For a Visit, Or a Lifetime", is a model for other cities and towns to follow, through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike.

In the years since its first permanent settlers, Julius and Daniel Warren, and its incorporation, Warrenville has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Warrenville's first major establishment was a tavern created by Julius Warren. This legacy of brewing has been kept alive by the craft brewing company, Two Brothers Brewing, who are one of the most popular Illinois brewing companies in the United States. Warrenville also boasts a multitude of parks; and youth and family friendly activities make this a great place to work, live, and raise a family. The city is also a shining example of fiscal responsibility, as it has no bonded debt. This fact should make residents, employers, and civil servants tremendously proud.

On the occasion of this 50th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Warrenville's legacy of growth and prosperity and to look ahead to the opportunities facing this great village and our nation. Today both marks 50 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Warrenville, Illinois, and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY AND ELVIN
BREACH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shirley and Elvin Breach of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 16, 2017 and were married at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Shirley and Elvin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBIN
SPROUL FOR HER OUTSTANDING
CAREER WITH ABC NEWS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Sproul for her work with ABC News as she prepares to begin the next chapter in her storied career. For the past 41 years, Ms. Sproul has had an accomplished career as a journalist with ABC and has helped make it a world-class news organization that maintains the highest standards of professionalism. In sum, she has become one of Washington's most respected journalists.

Ms. Sproul began her career as a news assignment manager WMAL-Radio in Washington, D.C. in 1976. She then joined ABC News in 1981 as a Washington bureau chief for ABC News Radio, covering election analysis and political conventions. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Sproul produced U.S. radio coverage of military operations, including missions in the Persian Gulf. In 1993, she was named vice president and Washington bureau chief for ABC News, where she supervised and directed the organization's TV, radio and digital coverage of Washington, D.C. Ms. Sproul excelled in her role covering national news and events and also served as the organization's liaison with the federal government. In 2014, she was promoted to Vice President of Public Affairs for ABC News, where she focused on the network's political debates and external relations in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Sproul has had an outstanding tenure at ABC and was critical to the growth and success of the organization. Throughout her career, Ms. Sproul has earned numerous honors for her balanced and comprehensive coverage of important events. She was a member of the ABC News team to win an Emmy for their

coverage of President Barack Obama's Inauguration. In addition, Ms. Sproul has won George Foster Peabody Awards for coverage of September 11 attacks and coverage of U.S. military actions in the Persian Gulf. These accolades underscore her commitment to honest and accessible coverage of the news, as well as the respect she has among her industry peers. Through it all, Ms. Sproul recognized the importance of mentoring, especially other women. Breaking many glass ceilings herself, she has always practiced women supporting women. She will be missed as she moves on to a new stage in her career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robin Sproul for her work with ABC News. Her hard work, knowledge and professionalism have been vital to making ABC News the organization that exists today.

TRIBUTE TO PATSY AND PAUL
O'NEILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patsy and Paul O'Neill of Neola, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 29, 1967 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Patsy and Paul's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, regretfully, I missed votes on H.J. Res. 99 as I was at the White House for the signing of an executive order on offshore energy resources. American energy policy is critically important to my district. I look forward to being part of future work in the House on fiscally responsible spending measures. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 235, and YEA on Roll Call No. 236.

HONORING RETIRING ORLAND
PARK MAYOR DAN McLAUGHLIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Dan McLaughlin who served the

Village of Orland Park as an elected official for 34 years.

Dan McLaughlin was elected mayor of the village six times beginning in 1993. Prior to his election as mayor he served eight years as a Orland Park Trustee, starting his service to the community in 1983.

During his 34 years serving Orland Park, Dan McLaughlin has seen the population of the village expand from around 25,000 to nearly 59,000. As mayor, he helped drive significant commercial and public infrastructure development. He recently oversaw the construction of the "Main Street Triangle," a 27-acre site in the center of the community. This includes the 108,000-square-foot University of Chicago Medicine Center for Advanced Care. Significant improvements to La Grange Road were also completed under Mayor McLaughlin.

Dan McLaughlin has been a champion of veterans during his public service, honoring those who have served our nation. He was also instrumental in Orland Park's Special Recreation programs for the handicapped and was a leader in open lands preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Dan McLaughlin for his public service and thank him for all that he has done for Orland Park and the region. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
URBANDALE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Urbandale, Iowa, on the 100th anniversary of the city's incorporation.

The City of Urbandale was first incorporated on April 16, 1917. Many early residents found employment in several local coal mines until those were closed by the late 1940s. Urbandale was also a "street car suburb," where residents could commute to their jobs in the city via a street car on the "Urbandale Line" until they were replaced by Trolley buses in the early 1950s. Over the decades the town saw homes go up, restaurants and business open and flourish, and people from all over pass through its streets, from presidential candidates to its most famous visitor, Pope John Paul II, when he held mass at Living History Farms in 1979. At its core, Urbandale is an Iowa town where you want to raise your family. At its inception, only 298 people called it home. Today, Urbandale houses over 40,000 residents.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the citizens of Urbandale in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing the City of Urbandale nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF ERNEST "ERNIE"
DIPIETRO

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor a dear friend, Ernest "Ernie" DiPietro. Ernie passed away on April 24th at the age of 73. Ernie dedicated his life to public service, leaving behind a legacy in Cheshire, Connecticut that will never be forgotten.

Ernie was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 27, 1944. He graduated from Croft High School in Waterbury, before going on to earn his Bachelor's Degree at the University of New England, and his Master's Degree at the University of Hartford. Ernie proudly served our country in the U.S. Army Reserves during the Vietnam War. Reflecting his commitment to all who have served in the Armed Forces, Ernie served as American Legion Commander for Storrs Post 92 of Cheshire, enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

A committed educator, Ernie taught for the Wolcott Public School System and was a member of the Mattatuck Community College faculty. Ernie will always be remembered by friends and family for his great passion for politics and the nearly three decades that he led the Cheshire Democratic Party. I am grateful for his many years of friendship and his guidance to me and so many others who have served our beloved town.

Ernie's involvement and leadership in numerous social organizations has made an immeasurable impact on the Cheshire community. Ernie was a co-marshal for Cheshire's Memorial Day parade, as well as an integral member of the Cheshire Veterans Council. Fellow member of the Cheshire Veterans Council, Leslie Marinaro, remembers Ernie's years of dedication fondly, stating, "Ernie's footprint will remain forever in Cheshire and among our veterans." In addition, Ernie was active in many other organizations, including the Cheshire Kiwanis Club, Cheshire Land Trust, Cheshire Historical Society, and the Friends of Cheshire Library.

Ernie was also a devoted family man. He loved his wonderful wife of 46 years, Carol, who shared his passion for politics and public service. Ernie will also be missed by his brother-in-law, cousins, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and his many friends.

I had the great fortune to know Ernie DiPietro and call him my friend. His warm heart, sense of humor, infectious smile, and love of life touched all who knew him. He truly left the world a better place.

Ernie's life embodied the spirit of civic engagement that strengthens our communities, and makes our country a better place. His contributions to the Town of Cheshire, the State of Connecticut, and to the United States of America will not be forgotten. Ernie, we love you and miss you.

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, May 2, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense laboratories and their contributions to military operations and readiness.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine investing in America's broadband infrastructure, focusing on exploring ways to reduce barriers to deployment.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine infrastructure project streamlining and efficiency, focusing on achieving faster, better, and cheaper results.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy

To hold hearings to examine global philanthropy and remittances and international development.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine defense innovation and research funding.

SD-192

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the economy and private sector growth.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine building a flexible personnel system (F.A.S.T. Force) for a modern military.

SR-222

MAY 4

Time to be announced

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 139, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and S. 534, to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the threat posed by electromagnetic pulse and policy options to protect energy infrastructure and to improve capabilities for adequate system restoration.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine international development, focusing on value added through private sector engagement.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine telemedicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on leveraging technology to increase access, improve health outcomes, and lower costs.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine questions, answers, and perspectives on the current state of airline travel.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 8

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine Russian interference in the 2016 United States election.

SD-226

MAY 10

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 772, to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert

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grants, and S. 825, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska.

SD-628

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging with community, focusing on building connections that last a lifetime.

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 4

SD-562 2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs.

SR-232A

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2641–2657

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 991–1000, and S. Res. 148. **Page S2650**

Measures Reported:

S. 317, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 115–34)

S. 652, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 849, to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 916, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 920, to establish a National Clinical Care Commission. **Page S2650**

Measures Passed:

Silver Star Service Banner Day: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 135, expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2017, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2653**

Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 371, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, and the bill was then

passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2653–54**

Cornyn (for Corker) Amendment No. 209, to require that the comparative report on peacekeeping operations include an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates. **Page S2653**

18th Annual National Charter Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 148, congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017. **Page S2654**

Clayton Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission. **Pages S2645–48, S2654**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 60 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 117), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2647–48**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S2654**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

21 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

19 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S2655–57**

Messages from the House: Page S2650
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2650–51
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2651–52
Additional Statements: Page S2649
Amendments Submitted: Page S2652
Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—117) Page S2648

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:49 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2654.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 2258–2279; 1 private bill, H.R. 2280; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 300–302 were introduced. Pages H3002–03

Additional Cosponsors: Page H3004

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 910, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–102);

H.R. 1366, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States (H. Rept. 115–103);

H.R. 1312, to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–104);

H.R. 1242, to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–105); and

H. Res. 299, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; providing for proceedings during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–106). Pages H3001–02

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Cheney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H2975

Recess: The House recessed at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H2977

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. Page H2978

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2017: H.R. 910, amended, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 237; Pages H2978–80

Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act: H.R. 1312, amended, to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 238; Pages H2980–81

U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act of 2017: H.R. 1366, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; Pages H2981–83

Follow the Rules Act: H.R. 657, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 239; and Pages H2983–84

400 Years of African-American History Commission Act: H.R. 1242, amended, to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission. Pages H2985–87

Recess: The House recessed at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H2987

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2988, H2988–89, and H2989. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1180, the “Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a closed rule for H.R. 1180. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–15 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. In section 4, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of May 4, 2017, or May 5, 2017, 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 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 May 5, 2017. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx and Representative Polis.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D440)

H.J. Res. 99, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017. Signed on April 28, 2017. (Public Law 115–30)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,

MAY 2, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine United States European Command, focusing on theater assessment and European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) progress; to be immediately following by a closed hearing in SVC–217, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Transportation Command, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the United States-European Union covered agreement, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine federal payments to local governments provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and the need to provide greater fiscal certainty for resource-dependent communities with tax-exempt federal lands, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine responses to the increase in religious hate crimes, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Armed Services. Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Three Decades Later: A Review and Assessment of Our Special Operations Forces 30-Years After the Creation of U.S. Special Operations Command”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Overview of the Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Improvements to the Regulation of Medical Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Combating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Medicaid's Personal Care Services Program”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 10, the “Financial CHOICE Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Winning the Fight Against Human Trafficking: The Frederick Douglass Reauthorization Act”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “Examining the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on the “Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017”; H.R. 2196, to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients; H.R. 2195, the “OSC Access Act”; and the “All Circuit Review Act”, 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy and Environment, hearing entitled “Examining the Management of Red Snapper Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on Senate Amendments to H.R. 244, the “HIRE Vets Act”, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2105, the “NIST Small Business Cybersecurity Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Airline Customer Service”, 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing on the “Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “VA Specialized Services: Lower Extremity Conditions”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on post-referendum Turkey, focusing on institutions and human rights, 10:30 a.m., 2255, Rayburn Building.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through April 30, 2017

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	65	65	..
Time in session	445 hrs., 37'	295 hrs., 28'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	2,639	2,974	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	569	..
Public bills enacted into law	9	21	30
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	109	227	336
Senate bills	6	5	..
House bills	9	130	..
Senate joint resolutions	5	5	..
House joint resolutions	13	16	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	4	3	..
House concurrent resolutions	4	6	..
Simple resolutions	68	62	..
Measures reported, total	*52	99	151
Senate bills	27	..	..
House bills	4	58	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	20	39	..
Special reports	11	2	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	35	26	..
Measures introduced, total	1,182	2,705	3,887
Bills	980	2,257	..
Joint resolutions	41	100	..
Concurrent resolutions	14	50	..
Simple resolutions	147	298	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	116	110	..
Recorded votes .....	..	125	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through April 30, 2017

Civilian nominations, totaling 97, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	29
Unconfirmed	43
Withdrawn	25
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 371, disposed of as follows:	
Unconfirmed	371
Air Force nominations, totaling 1,616, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	58
Unconfirmed	1,558
Army nominations, totaling 2,726, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	7
Unconfirmed	2,719
Navy nominations, totaling 186, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1
Unconfirmed	185
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,252, disposed of as follows:	
Unconfirmed	1,252
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations carried over from the First Session .....	..
Total nominations received from this Session	6,248
Total confirmed	95
Total unconfirmed	6,128
Total withdrawn	25
Total returned to the White House .....	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 33 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 101 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, post-cloture.

(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, May 2

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1180—Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule).

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