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No. 85

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 21, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### MEMORIALIZING POLICE OFFICERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of National Police Week to memorialize our officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Nearly 3 years ago, on October 8, 2016, Officers Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega from the Palm Springs Police Department were shot and killed in the line of duty responding to what appeared to be a routine domestic disturbance.

Through this tragedy, our community came together, not only to remember Officers Zerebny and Vega, but to do more for their families and the entire law enforcement community.

Together, we found that families of fallen first responders, those who gave their all to protect us all, are being shortchanged. That is why I introduced the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivor Support Act, to honor those who have passed by serving the living.

My bill will increase the Public Safety Officer Benefit from \$350,000 to \$500,000 in order to pay off the calculated national average debt most families have; it will increase the monthly education benefit from \$1,024 per month to \$2,000 per month to ensure they can afford the actual rising costs of an education; and it will fix a bureaucratic loophole that, due to unnecessary red tape and delays in receiving benefits, can cost families up to tens of thousands of dollars through no fault of their own.

I urge all Members of Congress to do the right thing: to follow words with action, to follow praise with pragmatic solutions that will improve the lives of fallen first responders' families. I hope that all Members will cosponsor and support my bipartisan Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivors Support Act.

I urge the Speaker to bring it up for a vote immediately. Let's support this bill and stand up for the families of fallen officers who have sacrificed so much for us.

### INTERRUPTED FAMILY DINNERS

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, a question for those watching at home.

Do you have a cell phone?

Has your family dinner been interrupted by a local call, only to realize that it was spam?

This is incredibly frustrating and becoming all too common. In 2017, under 4 percent of cell phone calls were spam. In 2018, the number jumped to almost 30 percent.

This year spam calls are expected to rise up to the point of half of all cell phone calls. That is why I am cosponsoring the TRACED Act. This bill gives the FCC broader authority to find scammers and increase penalties for those who are caught.

If you have a cell phone, this legislation will save you a lot of frustration and make those times at home with your family maybe a little bit more enjoyable.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T TRUST  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the American people don't trust Washington, D.C. And I know that shocks everyone, but it is a perception that every one of us deals with back home, and after what the majority party pulled last week, it is easy to understand why.

Three—get it, three—bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills made it through committee and were ready to vote on.

Now let me say that one more time. Bipartisan healthcare bills, three of them; that is unheard of around here.

But then politics got in the way. The majority decided to add an unrelated poison pill to drive away the Republican support. This healthcare package now has no chance of being considered in the Senate and will never become law.

That is why I urge the majority to bring to the floor H.R. 2700. This legislation includes only the three bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills, no poison pills.

□ 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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Let's come together to address the problem. The American people deserve better than the cynical political games that we are playing.

#### CELEBRATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, Susan B. Anthony once said: "There will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers"—and serve as lawmakers and actually serve in the chair.

One hundred years ago, Congress moved one step closer to equality by passing a constitutional Amendment granting women the right to vote.

This week, we celebrate the 19th Amendment. To honor the courageous women who ushered us toward a more perfect Union, we wear yellow roses.

I have two daughters. I have seven granddaughters. I am thankful that they can shape their government because of the generations of women who came before them.

#### IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, with love of country in my heart and a belief that the Constitution ought to be honored.

Today I rise, some 34 days since the Mueller report has been made public, 34 days since we have concluded that impeachable offenses have been committed—34 days, and yet the President still commits actions that are deemed obstructive; 34 days, which means that, for 34 days now, the President is clearly above the law as it relates to the Mueller report—longer than that, but as it relates to the Mueller report and its being released, 34 days.

But there is good news. A good many Members are now considering joining the impeachment effort, and I salute them. I am more than honored to say that you can never be too late when it comes to being on the right side of history and the right side of justice. So I salute them, and I believe that others will come on board as well.

I believe they are doing this because they believe that no one is above the law. I think they are doing this because they believe that you have to put principle above politics. They are doing this because I think they love their country, and they refuse to allow this condition to continue without the constitutional remedy of impeachment being given its proper place in history as it relates to this President.

And as they do this, I just want to remind us that there is something that is indelible in my mind. I will never forget this image: a baby.

This is a baby crying. I won't forget this image. For this alone, we should consider impeachment. Separating babies from their parents without a means of reuniting them, for this alone, we should consider impeachment.

But there is much more to add: the whole notion that there are s-hole

countries in Africa; that there are very fine people among those who were in Charlottesville where a person lost her life; the whole notion that the Chief Executive Officer of the United States of America, the President, will stand before law enforcement personnel and say: You don't have to be nice when you are bringing people into your care, custody, and control.

And last night, to go to a rally—this is the President of the United States at a rally with people behind him saying, "lock her up," or some equivalent.

This is not some outlaw, renegade country. This is the United States of America. Do we want the President of this country to go before the public and have throngs of people shouting, "Lock her up?"

This is a great country. I love my country, and, for this reason, I want to assure my friends that I am going to thank all who are coming on board.

And the question is not, now: Who is going to be the first to come on board? The question really is this: Who will be the last to come on board? Who will be the last person to say: "I believe that no person is above the law"? Who will be the last to say: "I am going to do what I believe the Constitution requires when we have a person who has demonstrated that he is a lawless, ruthless, reckless person who happens to have control of the executive branch of government"?

It is my belief that sometimes you stand alone and it is better to stand alone than not stand at all. But I also understand that sometimes, when you stand alone, it is just a matter of time before others will stand with you.

I compliment all who are standing with us today, who have been here from the genesis of this.

Madam Speaker, I want to say one final thing.

This is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. I compliment the Republican who had the courage to step forward, the courage, the intestinal fortitude to take the stand for righteousness: Believe me, he won't be the last. There will be others. It is just a matter of time.

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

#### ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY ON THE SOUTH PLAINS OF WEST TEXAS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the effort to establish a national veterans cemetery on the south plains of west Texas.

Dating back to the Civil War, the 147 national cemeteries across America are a powerful way to honor those who have gone before us who wore the uniform of the United States and remind

us every day of the 1 percent of Americans who were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our freedom and security.

For some, they serve as what President Lincoln called "a final resting place for those who gave their lives that our Nation might live."

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with several distinguished veterans who have made it their mission to see this vision become a reality.

□ 1015

Among them were four generals, who have chosen to reside in a little slice of heaven that Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and I call west Texas. I am so honored that they are with us here today in the gallery.

General Edgar Murphy was the commanding general of the 49th Armored Division of the Army National Guard for the State of Texas. In his distinguished 42-year military career, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Legion of Merit. Today the Armed Forces Guard and Reserve Center in Lubbock is named in General Murphy's honor.

General Anne Sobel is a former major general in the Arizona Air National Guard who served as the first female homeland security director for the State of New Mexico. Today she continues by serving and teaching at my alma mater, Texas Tech University.

Brigadier General Gary Harber is a veteran with 42 years of service and a master army aviator. General Harber also served as the NATO northern regional wartime construction manager and commander from 1989 to 1995, responsible for the United Kingdom, Norway, and Denmark.

Last but certainly not least is my good friend Lieutenant General Bernie Mittermeyer. General Mittermeyer served 28 years in the U.S. Army, earning numerous awards and decorations. He served as our Surgeon General of the Army from 1981 until his retirement in 1985, and he also served as commanding general of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent over 40,000 veterans in my district and rural America. If you take into consideration eastern New Mexico that this national cemetery would serve, it is over 70,000 veterans.

We must ensure that the commitment we make to our veterans isn't reserved only for those veterans living in population centers, whether it is long-term care, services for the disabled, or respect that is owed our honored dead. We must never forget all veterans, including those living in rural parts of our country.

Madam Speaker, no group of Americans believes more adamantly in the importance of a strong defense and the mission of our military to keep us safe and free than the good people of west Texas.

Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember them. One of the best

ways we can do that is by giving them a hero's burial in a national cemetery. God bless our veterans. And go west Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING BOB DINGEMAN

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Colonel Robert "Bob" Dingeman, a decorated veteran and beloved community leader who dedicated his entire life to service.

Bob's commitment to service began when he was just a teenager. He was living with his family in Hawaii and serving in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Bob helped to get the women and children to safety before joining the defense of the base, and the events of that day led Bob to a life of military service.

He graduated from West Point in 1945 and went on to serve in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. During his decades of service, Bob earned a Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army, Bob earned multiple master's degrees and worked as a college professor at San Diego Miramar College, teaching math, history, and political science.

Bob became a pillar of San Diego's Scripps Ranch community where he and his wife, Gaye, and their children made their home.

Bob helped create the town's council, the Scripps Ranch Civic Association; organized many annual traditions, including the Fourth of July Parade; and established the community newsletter.

The Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School opened in 1995, so named by the San Diego Unified School District to recognize Bob Dingeman's accomplishments in the community. The school celebrates Bob Dingeman Day every year on June 12, Bob's birthday.

Scripps Ranch and San Diego are better off for Bob's leadership and his community involvement. His legacy of military and volunteer service will continue to be an example for us all.

Please join me in honoring Bob Dingeman for his dedication to Scripps Ranch and his service to the country.

#### RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR'S COMMITMENT TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on receiving a 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

The award recognizes Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's commitment to protecting the environment while supporting the mission of the military.

The United States Department of Defense is the world's largest user of fossil fuels, and when the price of those fuels spike, it harms our mission. That is why the Marine Corps views energy security as national security.

The marines at Miramar have led on energy storage research through a partnership with the California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge and deployed a methane-to-energy project from an onsite landfill that generates half the base's energy.

MCAS Miramar's installation-wide microgrid delivers 100 percent renewable energy to the base. Its distribution can provide reliable energy to mission-critical facilities for 3 weeks if they are ever disconnected from the grid.

This achievement has wide implications for the Marines, San Diego, and the way we power our world. Energy innovation has always come naturally to the military, and MCAS Miramar embodies San Diego's forward-thinking approach and commitment to sustainability.

I thank Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and all marines stationed there for their service to our Nation. I thank Marine Corps leadership for their dedication to alternative energy.

Please join me in congratulating Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

#### RECOGNIZING NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Children's Museum of San Diego, winner of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This award is the highest honor given to museums that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service.

The New Children's Museum, which will celebrate its 36th anniversary this year, is a cornerstone of arts and culture for San Diego families.

The museum is certainly a model for engaging people of all backgrounds with art. They collaborate with community centers, social service organizations, and schools to spread art, creativity, and play outside the museum.

The New Children's Museum employs a philosophy that enables children to learn through play. Their philosophy is pervasive in their immersive exhibits that allow children to climb, touch, build, and engage with the art.

I brought my own children there to think, play, and create, like so many families, when they were younger.

Today, the museum offers free and reduced admission for military families, Head Start groups, homeless and foster children, migrant families, and more.

This award is a testament to the New Children's Museum's service to San Diegans.

Please join me in honoring the New Children's Museum.

#### HONORING SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my House colleagues to honor and remember Senator Richard Lugar, a giant in Indiana politics who recently passed away at the age of 87.

For those who had the privilege to serve in Congress alongside Senator Lugar, you simply could not find a better mentor, colleague, and friend. Nor could you find a more honorable and decent individual.

Senator Lugar truly defined what it meant to be a principled statesman, dedicating his life to the betterment of the world, our Nation, and the Hoosier State.

From serving in the United States Navy to being elected mayor of Indianapolis in 1968 and to his service in the United States Senate from 1977 until 2013, he spent his entire life in service to his Nation and his fellow Americans.

While Senator Lugar worked on a wide variety of issues during his time in office, it was in the realm of foreign policy that he made the largest impact. Senator Lugar's knowledge of foreign policy issues was unmatched. Our Nation will forever be stronger and safer because of his tireless efforts.

It was a privilege and honor to serve alongside Senator Lugar during my first term in Congress. As I stand here today, it is truly humbling to say goodbye to a man who inspired so many to answer the call to service.

Our thoughts continue to be with his beloved wife, Charlene; his sons, Mark, Bob, John, David; and the rest of the Lugar family.

May he have fair winds and following seas. Godspeed.

#### MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF PASSAGE OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of this Chamber's passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

The battle for the 19th Amendment was long and hard-fought. It was 72 years from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 to the affirmation in our Constitution that women were owed the right to vote.

But the ultimate goal was not just the vote. It was what the vote means: that American women, all women, could enjoy the same rights and freedoms as American men.

In the last 100 years, we remain well short of that goal. In fact, this past week's latest assault on women's bodily autonomy is proof of that. The fact that women make 80 cents on the dollar compared to men, and much less for women of color, shows that we have a long way to go.

When there is so much work left to do to realize full equality for all American citizens, we cannot afford to move backward.

It is clear we need women's voices now more than ever. I am very proud of the fact that 40 percent of the Democrats in Congress are women, but we need more.

I am proud to serve with the largest group of women in Congress in U.S. history and to call these incredible Congresswomen my friends, colleagues, and Speaker of the House. I look forward to working with them toward full gender equality.

We will not wait another 100 years.

#### HONORING JIMMIE LEE MASON, SR.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime good friend of mine named Jimmie Lee Mason from Lubbock, Texas.

Jimmie Lee was a CPA, a consummate professional, and someone who took his profession very seriously and helped create the firm Mason Warner, which is in existence today.

Jimmie Lee passed away on April 5, 2019. He was 89 years old and leaves a giant hole in the hearts of his family, as you might expect.

I first met Jimmie Lee when I joined the State Board of Accountancy in Texas. Jimmie Lee, for whatever reason, and I will now never know, chose to take me under his wing. He mentored me. He was a wise counselor.

As a result of his friendship and his help, I was able to chair the State Board of Accountancy, and I was able to chair the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. I did that work much better and more professionally because of my friendship and his leadership and help throughout that process.

My story is only one of many, many like it. Jimmie served the Texas State Society of CPAs throughout his entire career. There are countless other CPAs who could have the exact same conversation with you that I am having this morning as a result of his friendship and his leadership.

Jimmie leaves behind a wife of 66 years, Wanda; son Jimmie Lee Mason, Jr.; daughter Kristi Killion and her husband, Jerry; son Greg and his wife, Areace; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jimmie Lee, everywhere he touched got better, whether it was a not-for-profit organization in Lubbock that he served or his profession that he served diligently for all those years. Countless individuals whom he came in contact with are much better off, none more so than the fellow who stands in front of you here today.

My life is better as a result of my friendship with Jimmie Lee Mason, and I miss my friend.

#### COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, one century ago today, the United States House of Representatives passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Just 1 year later, the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Even before women had the right to vote, women from Indiana were on their feet, rallying their voices to be heard. Hoosier suffragettes such as Amanda Way, Zerelda Wallace, May Wright Sewall, Helen Gougar, Dr. Amelia Keller, and Grace Julian Clarke led the push for suffrage in Indiana and inspired Hoosier women to stand up and speak out about their rights.

Each of these women and so many more across the country paved the way so that other women can now vote and hold local, State, and Federal Government positions.

It is an honor to be one of seven Congresswomen elected thus far to represent the Hoosier State in our Nation's Capital, but it began with Representative Virginia Ellis Jenckes, who began her service in 1933; then Cecil Murray Harden, who began her service in 1949; Katie Hall in 1982; Jill Long Thompson in 1989; Julia Carson in 2003; and my good friend JACKIE WALORSKI and I in 2013.

□ 1030

Hoosier women have certainly left their marks in America's history book. But, as I stand here today, I am struck at how much work, yes, we still have to do.

Exercising our right to vote is the most powerful tool we have to share our voice. Today, I join many colleagues here in the House wearing a yellow rose commemorating the suffragettes fight for our rights to vote. So much has been accomplished by women and for women in the past 100 years. Today, I want to encourage all Americans to consider how much farther we can go in the next 100 years.

#### CHARACTER

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on moral character, which is essential to the promise of America in order for us to flourish.

I am reminded that we stand on the shoulders of so many who have gone before us and impacted our lives in many ways—members of our greatest generation—who bravely fought tyranny and oppression during World War II. They were driven by honor, duty, and country. They were selfless, not drawing attention to themselves or seeking to be a celebrity or a hero.

They are the models for character that we must always celebrate and remember. They would never admit it, but they are heroes, heroes for bravely and humbly doing their part to protect our freedom.

Madam Speaker, why is character so important? Why does it matter? It is because our character—who we are and the decisions that we make when we are tested—is foundational to the rule of law.

In this body, we talk a lot about the Constitution, our God-given rights, bills and laws, checks and balances, the rules and the procedures that govern debate, the branches that make up this government, and so on. All of these pieces of our government are significant, but they are lifeless and have no meaning without the spirit of good faith.

If we, representatives of the people, don't lead with moral character, America doesn't stand a chance against corruption and the breakdown of trust with the people we serve. It is on us, each one of us, doing our part for what is righteous, what is just, and for what will keep America free.

President Reagan once said:

Freedom isn't passed down to us in the bloodstream; it has to be fought for.

In other words, freedom involves choices, and that is precisely why character matters.

Every single day, every single moment, our character is tested. In politics, it is tested by the temptations of power, palace intrigue, ambition, and personalities.

I won't blame either side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, but these are the smoldering fires that burn around us that threaten our institutions and our laws.

Did you know that only 3 percent of Americans trust the government will do the right thing—3 percent. Forty-six percent of Americans say that they have very little confidence in Congress. That is a crisis of confidence, and it is a call for reformation of character, so that people will trust and can trust that their representatives will always act in good faith on their behalf.

Again, it starts with us being better examples, not for the glory or the recognition, but because it is the right thing to do. We must be countercultural to the divisiveness that has taken hold of modern politics today. That means stopping the blame game, honoring another's argument, even when we disagree, and acknowledging, and even celebrating, our differences without attacking the other side's character. That is the way that we will come together to find out how we can make tough decisions without kicking the can down the road.

I fear what may come if things do not change. As Abraham Lincoln famously said, "A House divided against itself cannot stand." The strength of our Nation, our Constitution, our laws, and our institutions have no greater guardians than us. It is this government of

the people, by the people, and for the people.

We must take this responsibility seriously or, again, we won't have a fighting chance to rebuild the trust of "we, the people" and keep the promise of America alive. I have said it before in the well of this House: this is the promise that will keep us free and empower the next generation to shine. For their sake, our character, the spirit that leads us to do what is right and just, must be our guide so our House will forever stand.

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the new trade agreement negotiated with Mexico and Canada, or the USMCA.

My district that I represent, the 11th District of Pennsylvania, is one of the top ten dairy producing counties in the Nation and is the number one producing county for egg layers.

One thing that I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt, and they hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. I agree with them: better times are coming for these farmers because the Trump administration has worked to do right by the American farmer in negotiating the USMCA.

Under the agreement, Canada would eliminate its price control systems, which have effectively locked out America's dairy industry.

The agreement also makes improvements for the egg and poultry industry, with Canada agreeing to increase its quota regimes to allow for more American eggs and chicken into the market.

The farmers of my district are eagerly calling for the USMCA to be enacted as soon as possible, and I join them today in that call. I am hopeful that we can get there.

That is why I urge the leadership across the aisle to join in standing up for our Nation's farmers and to allow a vote on the USMCA. We have a generational opportunity to help American farmers compete and to thrive. Let's take that opportunity.

#### HONORING WARDEN CHERYL STEBERGER

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month was National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, and I rise today to recognize individuals from Lancaster County, who are making a difference improving criminal justice and public safety in our community.

I would like to recognize Lancaster County Prison Warden Cheryl Steberger, who has shown exceptional leadership in managing the Lancaster County Prison. Warden Steberger has substantially improved the welfare of those repaying their debts to society

while in prison and helped with their transition out of incarceration.

The warden has done so by meticulously following the data with a program known as Prison Stat. Prison Stat is run in conjunction with the Lancaster County Prison Board, led by Lancaster County Commissioner and Chairman Josh Parsons. This program monitors key metrics on the prison's performance and holds leaders accountable through transparent and frequent public review of the data.

Their work in Lancaster County has been honored by the National Association of Counties, who awarded both Commissioner Parsons and Warden Steberger with the 2018 Achievement in Criminal Justice and Public Safety Award.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the work of our correctional officers and we thank Warden Steberger for her dedication and leadership.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Foster Care Month, I would like to address a vital issue in today's foster care system: the need for more foster care parents. I would also like to recognize a few foster care organizations in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. These organizations embrace children in the foster care system and are committed to helping youth find permanent homes through foster parents, so that they, too, can experience love, stability, and the freedom to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska has been an advocate in the child foster care system for more than 125 years. This year, their mission is to secure 100 foster families who can offer a mature and stable environment.

Boys Town Nebraska, where I was fortunate to speak this last weekend at their high school graduation, directly serves about 30,000 children every year and believes that foster parents are the heart of high-quality foster care by offering children protection, permanency, and comfort.

The Child Saving Institute values the overall well-being of children by offering free, trauma-informed training to individuals and couples who want to serve as foster parents.

And the Nebraska Children's Home Society not only strives to find permanent homes for children, but they also address the need to foster teenagers.

All four of these organizations provide care and assistance to the abused and neglected and encourages the need for foster parents for children of all ages.

Each year, hundreds of Nebraska youth are removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances. Many of them fear where they will end up or if they will ever find their forever home.

My wife, Angie, and I adopted two children, Austin and Jessica, from the foster care system when they were just 8 and 9 years old. Even though we already had two sons, we knew that there were not enough homes for older children and siblings. Austin and Jessica are blessings to our family. Even though foster parenting was challenging, choosing to adopt them was one of the best and most rewarding decisions Angie, my wife, and I have ever made.

Even though foster children are hurting, they are just looking for someone to be committed to them and help them succeed. It is time to realize that everyone can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care and that these children just want someone to care for them. It is the hope that one day, through opportunity and lessons, these children will grow up and provide safety for their own children, benefiting future generations.

The idea of children being placed with stable and devoted families is not a partisan issue. I am very appreciative to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and I am thankful to serve as a co-chair for the Foster Care Caucus. I will continue to be an advocate for foster children and encourage the need for foster parents. We must remember that every child, no matter the age, is worthy of love and deserves a family.

#### HONORING MAJOR JOHN E. CLECKNER, SR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man and a great patriot from Redding, California, in my district. His commitment to his fellow veterans is certainly unparalleled. Major John Cleckner, Sr. passed away on May 11, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service.

During a 22-year military career that began in 1957 in the 82nd Airborne Division and later the U.S. Army Special Forces, John received far too many awards and honors to list in this time. During his time as a veteran of the Vietnam war, he was wounded multiple times and received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

In 1969, he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group. Upon arriving, he initiated a massive rebuilding of their camp's defenses and intelligence gathering when he heard of increased activity by North Vietnamese units in the area. Not long afterward, a North Vietnamese heavy weapons regiment laid siege to their camp for 5 months, but, thanks to John's efforts, the camp held.

After receiving his third Purple Heart, John was medically retired in 1979.

As impressive as his military service record is, it might even pale in comparison to his 35 years of dedicated

service to his fellow veterans, both in northern California and across the United States. Much like his military career, his accomplishments as an advocate for veterans are too numerous to properly list in this format.

He has worked closely with me and my office and others previous to me over the years as an adviser on all things veterans related and as a tireless partner and champion of programs and legislation that can make a real impact to help our veterans thrive.

He was a leader in every sense of the word. John was instrumental in getting a new VA clinic in Redding, whose groundbreaking will be very soon, and started the quest for a veterans' cemetery in Shasta County, both of which have now come to fruition, thanks to his relentless efforts.

John even collaborated with country music legend Merle Haggard, who is a Redding resident, to coordinate a national fishing tournament for combat-disabled veterans to have a chance to get out and relax and enjoy the outdoors with people who they can relate to. For him, it was all part of making the lives of veterans better in any way that he could.

When John discovered that many veterans struggled to obtain legal help, he went back to college at the age of 62 to get a degree that would allow him to serve as a legal assistant to in-need veterans at no charge to the veteran. That is amazing service. That is the kind of person John Cleckner was.

For his impressive track record, both on the battlefield and in civilian life, the Special Operations Center of Excellence at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School inducted John into the Distinguished Members of Special Operations Regiment in 2010.

□ 1045

I know this: Major John Cleckner was an American hero, on and off the battlefield. He devoted his life to his country, and when he could no longer serve his country, he devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

I have seen it firsthand. I consider myself fortunate to have known him as a friend, and I am grateful for the things he helped us—in my office and others—do to accomplish things for veterans in northern California.

John was tough, even a little scary, especially if he thought you weren't being true to what you were saying you would do. But if you were, you wouldn't have a stronger ally than Major John Cleckner in what we pursue to help our veterans, to help our Nation be strong, to be true.

His commitment has only strengthened my own resolve to further some of the initiatives he started and we have helped with and to never stop fighting for our veterans who deserve it.

I thank John for his service, his sacrifice, his dedication. We will miss him in northern California but will ensure

his legacy lives on through our efforts—all of us—to help our veterans, to help our Nation remain strong.

God bless Major John Cleckner, his faithful wife, Doris, his amazing family, and all that he has ever had touch with during his life of service to his nation and to his brothers.

#### IN MEMORY OF TROOPER DONALD C. BRACKETT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Trooper Donald C. Brackett, a dedicated law enforcement professional with the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Brackett passed away while on duty Saturday morning at the age of 58.

Our Nation just recognized National Police Week, a time to reflect upon and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement. Trooper Brackett was no exception.

A resident of Bensalem, Trooper Brackett served nearly 18 years in the United States Marine Corps and enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in October of 2001. He was most recently assigned to the patrol section of Troop T, King of Prussia, and was previously assigned to Troop K, Media, and Troop M in Trevose throughout his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, Trooper Brackett lived his life in service to our Nation and to our community. He is truly an American hero, and I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Marta, and his children, Gabriella and Brianna.

Trooper Brackett lived his entire life in service to our community. He set the example for our entire Nation to follow.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL STEKLENSKI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native of Perkaskie in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is promoting animal welfare through the nonprofit organization he established 4 years ago.

Paul Steklenski, an Army veteran and a network engineer, founded Flying Fur Animal Rescue in 2015. Flying Fur's 1970 Beechcraft single-engine airplane, Paul transports shelter animals, mostly dogs, at risk of being euthanized to rescue groups along the East Coast. To date, Paul estimates he has saved the lives of over 1,300 animals in need.

Paul credits Rick Witt, who helps manage the operations at Doylestown Airport, for the success of this organization. Rick allows Paul to use the original aircraft he used to transport the animals.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Flying Fur Animal Rescue and thank Paul for his work. I encourage all of us to follow his lead of being a voice for the voiceless.

#### RECOGNIZING BRUSH WITH THE LAW

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding nonprofit organization in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that is serving individuals in need in our community.

Brush With the Law, based in Montgomeryville, was founded as a visual arts program at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in 2013. The program quickly grew popular and was transitioned into one that helps marginalized individuals trying to re-enter society.

Brush With the Law works with municipalities and small businesses in their endeavors, which involves creation of conceptual art installations to beautify our community. These installations seek to raise awareness for issues important to local residents, such as drug addiction, homelessness, and climate change. The principal goal of Brush With the Law is to bring people together, a vision which we all should applaud.

I would like to recognize the founder and director, Maria Maneos of North Wales, for her leadership and for her work in empowering our community.

#### MOVE ON FROM THE RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, on April 18, 2019, my Democratic colleagues were overjoyed. The report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election was released. It was two volumes, volume I and volume II. Volume I was 199 pages long, volume II, 182 pages long.

Special Counsel Mueller's report was my colleagues' dream: the smoking gun. Now we can impeach President Donald Trump. The taxpayers spent \$2.5 million so far, but that is a victory.

The folks back home heard this, one ugly thud. There was no collusion and no obstruction.

So why do my colleagues keep the investigation going? Why are they threatening subpoenas, contempt of Congress?

Well, it is because Mr. Putin hacked into our elections with a wide open door given to him by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the DCCC.

Volume I, page 38:

On April 12, 2016, the GRU, the Russians, had gained access to the DCCC computers using the credentials stolen from a DCCC employee who had been successfully spearfished the week before.

A few lines later:

Approximately 6 days after the first hack into the DCCC network on April 18, 2016, the GRU—again, the Russians—gained access to the DNC network via a virtual private network connected between the DCCC and the DNC.

Mr. Putin was not interfering in our elections to help Mr. Trump. The report shows he was motivated by the fact of most of my people back home: He wanted anybody but Mrs. Clinton.

Volume I, page 23:

Here is the main idea: Use any opportunity to criticize Hillary and the rest—except for Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump. We support them.

It is time for my friends on the other side of the aisle to admit they left the barn door open, and Mr. Putin let those cows out to run free in our elections.

It is over. Let's move on. Join us in doing the people's work. That means issues they care about, like how about having lower unemployment? That is historical right now for Asians, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Let's give that a round of applause.

How about energy independence? Yes, our world is clear because of American energy.

How about helping us secure our border? Address the crisis on our border, have an immigration policy that works.

The American people want this. They are sick and tired of investigation after investigation after investigation. It is over. Let's move on.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, on June 4, we will celebrate 100 years since Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which correctly recognized women's right to vote.

At that time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin, in 1916, from Montana. But today, we have more women serving in this Congress than ever before, with 131.

In this proud moment for both women and our Nation's history, we also honor the suffragists who, more than a century ago, paved the way that allows women to take part in this democratic process and that also allows me to stand here as the first woman elected to represent Puerto Rico in Congress.

Because of our territorial status, Puerto Rico has been historically excluded from our national process, including the 19th Amendment ratification process.

Prior to becoming a U.S. territory in 1898, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony, and people on the island advocated for political equality for women, beginning with a right to education. But it wasn't long after becoming a U.S. territory that Susan B. Anthony advocated for equal political and civil rights for men and women in the new possessions, including Puerto Rico.

This advance in civil rights was one of the first reasons why people on the island began to fight for the conversion of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

It was the leaders of the Republican party who first included women's vote as part of their platform, and they also presented legislation to achieve it. As the measure did not progress, our suffragists sought support from national organizations and the United States Congress, which introduced legislation extending women's right to vote in Puerto Rico.

Finally, in 1929, Puerto Rico's Legislature recognized the right to vote, but only for literate women; and in 1935, the right to vote was granted to all women.

These series of events led to the election of Maria Luisa Arcelay, who became the first woman in Puerto Rico to be elected to a government legislative body in 1932.

However, because Puerto Rico is an incorporated territory of the United States, despite being U.S. citizens since 1917, Puerto Ricans cannot vote for the U.S. President, and they are also denied voting representation in this Congress.

While this Congress is legislating to extend benefits to all women, I must raise my voice many times to advocate for these rights to be extended to territories like Puerto Rico that still lack, at a general level, full equality in relation to a State.

Statehood for Puerto Rico will happen. The question is when this Congress will do it.

The end of slavery, the end of segregation, and women's right to vote are just examples of civil rights that took a while to become the law of the land. Statehood for Puerto Rico will follow.

We are still fighting for equal pay, for equal work, for being able to walk safely without fear of sexual harassment, for eradicating gender violence, for having more access to where decisions are made, for having more representation in different fields, such as science, arts, sports, business, and economics.

As we rejoice and celebrate progress in equality for women, I ask my colleagues to be reminded that their job continues and much more remains to be done to achieve equality for all Americans.

That also includes the veterans of Puerto Rico, veterans that lack access to TRICARE Prime options on the island. Instead, only Active Duty servicemembers and their family members have access to TRICARE Prime, specifically TRICARE Prime Overseas.

This also affects the access by spouses and dependents to benefits as their family member serves our country.

Current law dictates that military retirees under the age of 65 in Puerto Rico and the territories are eligible only for TRICARE Standard.

That is the reason I filed H.R. 2171, which seeks to rectify this problem by making TRICARE Prime available to over 29,000 servicemembers in Puerto Rico, who have retired from the Armed Forces, and their dependents.

According to the report by the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, not having access to TRICARE Prime is one way in which Puerto Rico is treated differently under several Federal programs.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2171.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

O, Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth.

We give thanks for this day that You have made, and we give thanks for these courageous and committed public servants who You have called and commissioned to be the voices of the people. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in this country, and we are thankful for all of the patriarchs and matriarchs and our uniformed and civilian soldiers who unselfishly sacrificed their lives as payment for this freedom.

I pray that You will endow our legislative leaders with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and discernment. Give each leader in this Chamber a heart for the people they represent. I pray that through today's proceedings, a more perfect Union will be formed, justice will be established, domestic tranquility will be assured and ensured, and the blessings of liberty will be secured to ourselves and our posterity.

In Jesus' name, amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ESCOBAR 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.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND R. PEREZ GATLING

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Perez Gatling, the 13th pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. I thank him for his powerful and poignant prayer on the House floor and know that his words will give Congress strength.

Known as "the church that reaches out," Ebenezer Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in the city of Virginia Beach and has been the cornerstone of our community since 1859.

Pastor Gatling leads it by humble example, sharing with whomever he meets his personal motto: "I'm just a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody."

Pastor Gatling is not only a faith leader, but also a mentor to so many through his church's prolific community outreach, specifically, for students of all ages.

Pastor Gatling is accompanied today by his loving family: Veleka Gatling, Lewis Gatling, Russell Gatling, Cleo Gatling, Leo V. Williams, Carolyn Williams, and Mary Bowen.

Thank you for joining us today. Thank you, Pastor Gatling, for bringing your wise words and your wonderful family to visit us in Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BARRAGÁN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we are reminded of the brave servicemen and -women who have given their lives to defend our country.

The families of those who died in conflict, known as the Gold Star families, can never forget these sacrifices. Our country is indebted to these selfless Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

No amount of financial support can ease the pain of losing a loved one, but veterans' benefits to surviving spouses and children provide an important lifeline during these times of need.

The 2017 tax law brought many unintended consequences that Congress is

now trying to fix, including a significant increase in tax rates on benefits for children of these fallen service-members. This is completely unacceptable. Congress must pass legislation to fix this now so families that have already given so much are not asked to give even more.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate an important moment in our Nation's history: 100 years ago, today, Clifford Randall, the Representative from the First District of Wisconsin, left his office like all of his colleagues in the House, walked to this very Chamber, and cast his vote in favor of women's suffrage.

The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Today we commemorate that vote.

Wisconsin was a leader in the women's suffrage movement. In fact, Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I am wearing a yellow rose today just as the supporters of women's rights did a century ago.

As we commemorate the 19th Amendment, let's focus on how we can work together to support women and ensure that future generations will never forget that historic vote.

#### EMPOWERING WOMEN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, what an amazing day: 100 years ago, the Congress voted out a resolution to empower women with the right to vote.

What is interesting, the last day, the last State, Tennessee, when the vote was taken, or when it was about to be taken, the then-Speaker, who was against it, wearing a red rose, said: We have got the votes.

But there is nothing like the power of a woman and the power of a mother. And a young legislator got a letter from his mother that very morning that said: Son, be a good boy, and vote to let women vote.

And, lo and behold, Tennessee ratified that right because that 24-year-old voted to let women vote.

It is an important time now for women to be empowered, because the States of Alabama and Texas and Mississippi and Missouri and others are now trying to reign back the rights of women and the right to choose.

We respect other values. We respect the Constitution and the Ninth Amendment, but Alabama and Mississippi and Texas and Missouri, we are not going back, because women got the right to vote. And just like that young man, be

a good boy and leave women alone, for them to choose their own right, the right to vote.

#### HONORING MADISON DOZIER

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

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent Madison Dozier of Alexandria, Kentucky.

Madison is an honor roll student at Reiley Elementary and the daughter of proud parents Ronnie and Melanie Dozier.

Madison is also the 2019 national winner of the annual National Missing Children's Day poster competition, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice.

Each year, all fifth graders in the United States are invited to participate in the missing children's day poster competition. The purpose of this competition is to foster awareness and discussion among schools and law enforcement regarding the tragedy of missing and exploited children.

This year, Madison's poster received the national award, following a unanimous decision from the judging panel.

Congratulations to Madison and her teacher and her proud family as they visit Washington, D.C., for the awards ceremony this week. Her poster will be on display in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice. Check it out.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

It is hard to think that, 100 years later, for most of our Nation's history, including my grandmother's and great-grandmother's generations, women contributed to the building of our Nation but lacked this basic civil right.

In America, your vote is your voice; it is what makes all of us equal. We each have one vote. Voting is one of the most important things that you can do as a citizen.

When the 19th Amendment passed over 100 years ago, only one woman served in the United States House of Representatives. When I began my congressional career here in 2003, 60 women were serving in the House.

Today, I am proud to serve in the House with 127 women, including 14 other Latinas. That, my friends, is progress.

While we have made significant improvements to expand the representation of women in our political system, we still have a long way to go. So let



us honor this anniversary by committing ourselves to continuing the unfinished work toward achieving full equality for women in this country.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the efforts of the women's suffrage movement in the United States.

Susan B. Anthony once said: "Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for the women. There is so much yet to be done."

Now that we stand on the other side of that century, it is only fitting that we honor the suffragettes who paved the way for millions of women to vote and hold public office.

By a vote of 74-15, my home State of Arkansas became the 12th State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I would like to specifically recognize Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway from Jonesboro, Arkansas, the first woman to be elected to the United States Senate and whose portrait is prominently displayed outside the Senate Chamber.

A truly representative democracy necessitates that all voices be heard, and the 19th Amendment signified a turning point in government.

America's legacy of strong women continues on today in the lives of each woman who casts a ballot and runs for office. I am honored to serve alongside many of these women.

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in celebrating the 66th Congress.

100 years ago today, in 1919, this House voted to pass the 19th Amendment to grant women the right to vote. I rise today to celebrate the women's suffrage movement and the women who, at the time, were seen as revolutionary for demanding a voice, a representation in our democracy.

Today, we applaud the women who organized in upstate New York, in Seneca Falls, who marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, and who lifted their voices across this country to demand "votes for women."

As we prepare to celebrate a century of women's suffrage, let us acknowledge the tireless work of women to demand the right to vote and the women, including Ulster County's own Sojourner Truth, who recognized that suffrage still denied treatment under the law for all.

Today, I am proud to celebrate the tireless work of women to demand the

right to vote and the men who stood on the right side of history by voting to pass the 19th Amendment.

Their work set the stage for the historic 116th Congress, full of trailblazing women, and firsts in their own right.

□ 1215

#### CELEBRATING BOLD TRAILBLAZERS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold trailblazers like Susan B. Anthony, a pro-life woman and Republican, and others like Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton, who both led the suffrage movement in Washington State.

It was exactly 100 years ago today that this body passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Its leaders like Susan B. Anthony and others have inspired generations of women to live their dreams, to be courageous, and to be risk-takers. They fought in search of a more perfect union to make sure the promise of America was available to women of all walks of life so that we, the people, are able to make our voices heard.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for them. I am honored to stand here today, 100 years later. Their legacy reminds us all why we are empowered to do our part and write the next chapter of America's history.

#### JOHN BOLTON BEATING DRUMS OF WAR

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, if you listen carefully, you can hear drums faintly in the background. It is not a prayer circle. It is John Bolton down at the White House, beating the drums of war.

This is the same John Bolton who thought invading Iraq was a really, really great idea. In fact, he said, "I expect that the American role actually will be fairly minimal." Minimal? The greatest foreign policy mistake in the history of the United States of America fairly minimal?

Now he wants to do the same thing in Iran.

Iraq was one thing, with Saddam Hussein in a relatively small country. Iran? Really, buddy? He hasn't seen any problem around the world that you can't change by regime change: North Korea, regime change; Venezuela, oh, that worked out really well a couple of weeks ago, regime change; now Iran.

What about Russia? He is kind of quiet about Russia. I wonder why that is. It might have something to do with his boss.

Now, his boss goes back and forth: War, no war. War, no war. I don't know.

We have to hope Bolton doesn't win this debate. He has never repented. He said, in 2019, "I still think the decision to overthrow Saddam was correct." The same guy said, "I confess I had no desire to die in a Southeast Asian rice paddy." Chicken hawk.

#### RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, exactly 100 years ago today, this House passed the 19th Amendment. On June 4, 1919, the Senate approved it.

The women's right to vote began the race to ratification, requiring three-fourths of the 48 States to ratify it before it was added to the Constitution. That happened on August 26, 1920.

Madam Speaker, a woman having the right to vote is not at all controversial today. However, in 1848, when the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, the issue was so contentious that the group of mostly women only narrowly passed including voting rights in their Declaration of Sentiments.

We know some of the leaders of the movement, like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Ida B. Wells, but there are thousands of other women whose names will never be known. They also gave heart and courage to ensuring equality for women.

The passage of the 19th Amendment ensured that all Americans were included in steering our Nation toward the future. One hundred years later, it remains just as important.

#### CELEBRATE 19TH AMENDMENT WITH POLICIES TO SUPPORT ALL WOMEN

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Suffragettes across the country bravely fought for decades to make that moment possible, enduring hardship and pervasive discrimination. I think about trailblazing women like Oregon's Abigail Scott Duniway.

The right to vote empowered women to shape policy, elevated public discourse, and more.

We have come a long way. There is a record number of women not only voting but serving in Congress. With more women at the table, I hope we will finally enact policies that support all women and their rights, including the right to make our own reproductive

healthcare decisions, to affordable childcare, to paid family and medical leave, to retirement security, and to equal pay for equal work.

We still have work to do. We must continue breaking down barriers so future women leaders of all backgrounds can be heard. Together, we will achieve great things.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the celebration of the 19th Amendment.

#### 19TH AMENDMENT ENSURED WOMEN FULL PARTICIPATION IN OUR DEMOCRACY

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 354, celebrating the 100th anniversary of this body passing the 19th Amendment.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution that provided suffrage for women. This amendment not only ensured that all women are full participants in our democracy, but it also ensured that the United States is a full democracy.

Women and girls have always possessed the same fundamental rights as men and are essential to a stable, peaceful society.

On behalf of every woman in the Second District of Missouri, I honor the role that the ratification of the 19th Amendment played in fulfilling the principles of the Constitution for women.

I commit to working to strengthen our democracy as we remember remarkable women like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others who fought for our freedoms.

#### CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize a historic day in our Nation, the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which, once ratified, granted most women the right to vote, bringing them one step closer to equality with their male peers.

That ratification was 10 years in the making. Sadly, this pace of progress, this slow pace, is still all too common. Throughout history, women have had to fight for the same rights automatically afforded to men. Today, that fight continues.

As we stand on the shoulders of all the women who challenged convention, who fought and refused to quit so that we could be here in a moment where some 68 million women vote in America and the first two Latina women represent Texas in the people's House, our responsibility is to continue that

fight against the erosion of women's rights that we are witnessing today and to fight for equal treatment and opportunity for all.

#### HONOR 19TH AMENDMENT BY EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, going door to door in my first campaign, a sweet, elderly lady invited me in for iced tea. As she discussed my race, she shared that she had never missed a chance to vote since she was a young girl.

One day, her mother had hitched the horses to the wagon, pulled up in front of the house, told her to get in, flicked the reins, and they were on their way to town. With determination and pride, her mother announced, "Today, for the first time in our country, we get to vote. We must always exercise this privilege." And that girl did, every election, for over 74 years.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this Chamber passing the 19th Amendment to our Constitution, giving women the right to vote, we must all reflect on what this right to vote truly means. I am grateful for this privilege not only to vote on election day but also to stand here and represent the good people of Missouri's Fourth District and cast their vote here in Congress.

We live in the greatest country in the world. Let us always remember those who secured our freedoms and honor their legacy by exercising the right to vote.

#### HONORING COURAGEOUS WOMEN WHO WON RIGHT TO VOTE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, just over 100 years ago, my mother was born without the right to vote. Like other women of her time, she had no vote, and she had no voice in her government.

Today, we honor the courageous women who marched, staged hunger strikes, went to jail, and persevered in order to win this fundamental right for half the country, forever altering our democracy by ensuring that everyone in this country, including women, had the constitutional right to vote.

I am deeply grateful that my mother benefited from their efforts and that she would live to see her daughter run for and be elected to Congress.

Millions of women voted for the first time in November 1920 and in the nearly 100 years since. But we still have much more work to do.

I am determined that, one day soon, all of our daughters and sons will witness the ratification of the Equal

Rights Amendment, which, at long last, makes it clear that equal means equal.

#### CELEBRATING THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to speak before the U.S. House of Representatives in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment that gave all women the right to vote. This centennial is one of the most important in our Nation's history, and I am thrilled to be celebrating it with my colleagues here on the House floor.

The fight for women's suffrage in my State of Arizona began when we were still a territory in the 1800s. Brave women, like Josephine Hughes of Tucson, Frances Munds of Prescott, and others, led the suffragist movement in Arizona so that women in Arizona won the right to vote even before the 19th Amendment passed.

Let us celebrate the many women and men who fought for so much over so many years to ensure the right to vote for women in America.

As the daughter of a great mother, as the mother of a wonderful daughter, and as the grandmother to a 1-week-old granddaughter, I am so proud to be here today to honor this great, historic moment.

#### PROTECTING RIGHT TO CHOOSE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, as States like Alabama move forward implementing medieval laws that seek to imprison doctors and punish women for their personal healthcare decisions, I want to make one thing absolutely clear: I will always stand up and defend a woman's fundamental right to choose.

These near-total bans on abortion are not only unconstitutional, but they also endanger the lives of countless women who will be forced to turn to unsafe procedures.

In 1930, illegal abortion was listed as the official cause of death for almost 2,700 women, nearly 20 percent of maternal deaths recorded that year.

We have come too far in the fight for women's equality to retreat to an era when women lacked the basic right to autonomy over their own bodies.

My district of Rochester, New York, is the proud home of Susan B. Anthony. Today, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, but the fight for women's rights is far from over.

We must remain resolute in our commitment to protecting and upholding *Roe v. Wade*. We must support critical

healthcare programs like Planned Parenthood. We must ensure that every single woman across America has the right to make her own decisions.

□ 1230

#### HONORING SUFFRAGIST MARY ANN SHADD CARY

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, standing on the achievements of brave women who came before me, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment House passage, expanding the right for women to vote.

As we celebrate this historic day, I want to pay tribute to an overlooked but trailblazing woman who helped make it possible, Delaware pioneer and suffragist, Mary Ann Shadd Cary. In her prophetic words: "We should do more and talk less."

Using the power of the pen, Shadd Cary was the first woman to edit and publish a newspaper in North America, using that role to combat systemic racism and slavery.

After the Civil War, she set her sights on a new cause: voting. She became one of the first Black female lawyers in the United States to testify before the House Judiciary Committee, in 1874, advocating for women's suffrage in these very Halls.

Described by W.E.B. Du Bois as "well-educated, vivacious, with determination shining from her sharp eyes," Mary Ann Shadd Cary blazed trails for women everywhere, and throughout her life, always fought in the name of justice and equality.

We owe it to her and we owe it to all to continue to fight for our rights.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

The 19th Amendment played a pivotal role in paving the way for a new agenda that would finally put women's issues at the forefront of our democracy. Not only did it help women move closer to equality, it created more opportunities for jobs, fairer wages, access to education, and more health benefits. Eventually, more women began to run for office.

Madam Speaker, 100 years later and women have made an impact at the ballot box like never before, electing a record-breaking number of women to Congress. But there is still work to be done.

We are still fighting for full equality for all women, including LGBTQ women.

We are still fighting for reproductive rights. We have seen countless States enact laws that strip away a woman's reproductive freedom, criminalizing a decision that should be between her and her doctor. But core to women's constitutional liberties is autonomy over their own body and well-being. In order to truly support women, we need to safeguard and improve, not limit, access to comprehensive healthcare.

As we celebrate the strides that women have made in our country, we also recommit ourselves to the fight that women have endured since the founding of our Nation.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, America has always been a work in progress, and, therefore, we always have the opportunity to make our democracy better, stronger, when we simply do the right thing.

The Declaration of Independence may have said that "all men are created equal," but it took a brave group of Americans to say that it should really be "all people." If the law applies to each of us equally, then the right to vote must always be equal.

The women who fought for their right to vote weren't in it to make friends. They were mocked and beaten, called extremists, told to slow down, told that good things would come if they simply waited. But, nevertheless, they persisted.

Today, on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passed in the House, let's be inspired by this group of women who took the hard fight and did the right thing, because they knew our democracy would be stronger and better for it.

#### YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, "Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose just so they can picture themselves doing that job some day. You can't be what you can't see."

Madam Speaker, Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, spoke those words. She was a personal hero of mine, one of the few women in STEM I could look up to as a child. And to this day, I am grateful to Sally because she showed me, as a young girl, that being a woman did not prevent her from pursuing her dream, from entering a male-dominated world and space.

Yesterday, I spoke on television with my friend Representative MIKIE SHERRILL, about the launch of the first ever Servicewomen and Women Veterans Congressional Caucus, and it turns out another young girl was watching.

"Why do those two girls have the same necklace on?" she asked her father, referring to my and Representative SHERRILL's pins. Her father explained the meaning of the pin, explained how we were two women elected to serve in the United States Government.

True equality can only be achieved when every young girl can look up to her leaders and see herself reflected, see a legitimate path for achieving her dreams. For that, we need more women in leadership, more people of color. Our elected representatives need to be a more accurate reflection of America that we represent.

Maybe that young girl yesterday will go into politics, maybe she won't, but she saw two women who were elected by their peers to serve.

"You can't be what you can't see."

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote to pass the 19th Amendment, I would like to recognize Tennessee's crucial role in the Amendment's ratification.

State Representative Harry T. Burn was a slow learner. He was originally antisuffragist, but he ultimately changed his "nay" vote to "yea" just in time to heed his mother's advice to "be a good boy" and vote for ratification.

His was the deciding vote in the Tennessee General Assembly, making Tennessee the 36th State, and final State, needed for ratification. Representative Burn explained his vote this way: "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

So thank you to Representative Burn and, above all, to his mother, Ms. Phoebe Burn, for her crucial role in aiding women's right to vote.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to join my colleagues in commemorating the 100th anniversary of House passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote everywhere in our country.

My State, Wisconsin, was the very first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I am wearing this yellow rose today in honor of the remarkable women who fought for their seat at the table.

They persevered; they resisted; they persisted; and the face of Congress is different because of them. Women like Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth said that, if women want rights, we must be sisters in arms and fight for what is right.

Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and, unfortunately, they are now leading in the efforts to disenfranchise people. But it is because of the powerful legacy that I will continue to fight to make sure that no one is denied access to the ballots due them as citizens.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 354, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberties, and individual rights;

Whereas from 1919 to 1920, the Sixty-Sixth Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an amendment to the Constitution to provide suffrage for women;

Whereas on May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919;

Whereas the introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation;

Whereas August 18, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by three-fourths of the States, providing the support necessary under article V of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment becoming a part of the Constitution of the United States, providing for women's suffrage; and

Whereas the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) honors the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further fulfilling the promise of the Constitution of the United States and promoting the core values of our democracy;

(3) reaffirms the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and

(4) reaffirms the desire of Congress to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 21, 2019, at 9:24 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 163.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1500, CONSUMERS FIRST ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1994, SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MAY 31, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 389 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 389

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-15 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall

not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XV.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of May 23, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 7. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 23, 2019, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2019, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, the Rules Committee met on Monday night and reported a rule, House Resolution 389, which covers a lot of territory. It provides for consideration of H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act under a structured rule which makes in order 17 amendments.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, or the SECURE Act, under a closed rule which self-executes Chairman NEAL's manager's amendment.

Additionally, the rule provides same-day authority and suspension authority through Thursday, May 23, and it provides filing authority for the Committee on Appropriations through 5 o'clock p.m., Sunday, June 2.

Finally, the rule provides recess instructions through next Friday, May 31.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, reverses the anti-consumer actions taken by this administration to ensure the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau once again serves the needs of American consumers.

More than a decade ago, the United States experienced one of the worst financial crises in our history, caused, in part, by a failure to have strong pro-

tections for consumers of financial products and services.

Through the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to be a strong and independent agency with the mandate to protect consumers from unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices in the financial marketplace. When the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was first stood up, it was a powerful ally to consumers in middle-class families across the country.

Under former Director Richard Cordray, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau returned nearly \$12 billion to over 30 million consumers who were harmed, handled over 1.2 million consumer complaints about financial institutions, and implemented new safeguards to better protect consumers who utilize a wide range of consumer financial products and services.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has politicized the agency, weakened supervision and enforcement, and reduced transparency and accountability. The Bureau has dismantled protections for Active Duty servicemembers, weakened fair lending enforcement, blocked payday loan cases, and terminated the Consumers Advisory Board. These are just a few examples of how the agency is failing to meet its mission.

The Consumers First Act would block the Trump Administration's agenda and ensure the CFPB starts working for the people once again.

Among other things, the bill would direct the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau leadership to reverse all anti-consumer actions taken under this administration, including resuming Military Lending Act oversight. The bill restores the supervisory and enforcement powers of the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity. It also reestablishes a dedicated student loan office to help protect students as they find ways to finance their education. Importantly, the bill requires adequate agency staffing across the Bureau, including for supervision and enforcement.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for her work on this legislation, which I cosponsored and is supported by 51 consumer civil rights, housing, and labor organizations.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act. I am also a cosponsor of this bill to make it easier for American workers to save for their future. One of my number-one priorities is ensuring all Coloradans and all Americans have the opportunity to find a good job, can afford to send their kids to college, and have something left over for their retirement.

Unfortunately, nearly half of Americans in the private sector work for an employer who does not offer a retirement plan. A 2018 study by the National Institute on Retirement Security found over 100 million people of

working age have few, if any, retirement assets.

The SECURE Act is a bipartisan bill which was approved unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee, and I am eager for the House to pass this important legislation. The SECURE Act would make it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees by eliminating outdated barriers to the use of multiple employer plans and improving the quality of these providers. This could result in hundreds of thousands of new retirement accounts to help people save.

Additionally, the bill would allow long-time part-time workers to participate in 401(k) plans and create a new tax credit to incentivize small employers to set up retirement plans for their employees. It would also add more flexibility for how long individuals could contribute to their retirement accounts, and when they must begin drawing down on those accounts.

This legislation is a big step forward in helping Americans save and prepare for retirement, and I am proud to support it. I urge all of my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my friend from Colorado for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

It is a close-knit bunch of folks up there on the Rules Committee, Madam Speaker. If you have not been by recently, you ought to come by. There are only 13 of us there. It is easy to remember everybody's name, but you don't go to the Rules Committee when you have important bipartisan legislation to bring to the House floor. You go to the suspension calendar for that.

You go to the Rules Committee when you have contentious pieces of legislation to bring to the floor. I regret that we are here today on things that are absolutely contentious that could have been absolutely partnership bills.

I want to reference first H.R. 1500. That is the bill my friend from Colorado spoke about as it relates to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is absolutely right. The way this Congress set up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau when Democrats were running this institution and President Obama was in the White House was to make it a completely administration-driven agency with no accountability to Congress whatsoever. That was a mistake.

But the folks who set it up liked the team that was running it at the time, and so our efforts in the minority to stop that from happening were rebuffed. Now we are here today, Madam Speaker, and you might think that we have a list of legislative fixes to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Not so.

I encourage you to pick up a copy of H.R. 1500 just to see what those fixes

might be. It is a 40-page bill. You have to get to page 21 before accusations and assertions against former Director Mick Mulvaney end, and the important work, like changing the way we reference the agency by name, begins.

I don't have any language today. No amendments were offered in the Rules Committee last night, Madam Speaker, to talk about all of the things that former Director Cordray did while he was there. The list of things that he did that I don't like are long. The list of things that he did that I thought violated the actual text of the law is pretty long.

But he is gone, and we have the ability to fix anything we want to fix that he did. So no amendments were offered to impugn the integrity of the former director. Well, not the former director, Mr. Cordray; but the former director, Mick Mulvaney, yes, acting director. There are 21 pages of a 40-page bill dedicated to personal attacks on the former director.

Madam Speaker, if we wanted to do something about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that brought its authority out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and right back here to where it belongs in Article I, we would make this agency subject to congressional appropriations. This is a bipartisan issue.

If you want to find something that we agree on as an institution, let's talk about making Article I the lawmaker in this country, rather than Article II. Let's talk about taking it out of the White House's hands and putting it back into the people's hands on Capitol Hill. You will not find that idea in these pages.

It is a disappointment because we could be doing something in partnership. Standing for consumers is a shared value, not a divisive one.

I go now to the bill coming out of the Ways and Means Committee, H.R. 1994. Madam Speaker, as my friend from Colorado referenced, this bill passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee. Unanimously.

Take a look at the men and women on the Ways and Means Committee. I think there are 42 of them. These are not shrinking violets on the Ways and Means Committee. I see a couple of them out here. I won't call anybody out by name—Mr. PANETTA—but they are not shrinking violets on this committee. These are serious public policy advocates who represent very diverse parts of the country and who fight hard for the values that their constituents represent.

Unanimously, they came together as a committee, Madam Speaker, to change the rules for retirement, to make it easier for families to save; to change the rules around college savings plans so that families who ran into challenges in secondary years, families whose kids develop special needs and might not be going on to college, but who have very real needs today, to allow those dollars to be tapped by

those families to serve the educational needs of their children.

Unanimously it passed the committee. In fact, I will read from the committee report. This is not something that was done lightly in committee, Madam Speaker. We are talking about hundreds of pages of legislation, hundreds of pages of a committee report. This was a thoughtfully designed and crafted piece of legislation.

The committee said this:

The committee believes that expanding 529 plans will help families save for education expenses that meet each family's unique needs.

We run into that problem often, Madam Speaker. We try to do something that is good for America, and it turns out that 330 million Americans have different needs and priorities. So the Ways and Means avoided a one-size-fits-all solution, recognizing those unique needs. I will read on.

The committee says:

By allowing tax-free distributions for apprenticeship expenses, homeschooling expenses, student loan repayments, elementary and secondary expenses, in addition to tuition, families can customize the use of their education savings to make education more affordable.

We didn't read that on the headline of any major newspaper when the Ways and Means passed that unanimously. I am sure there was something in the headlines of that major newspaper about wars in foreign lands. I am sure there was something in the newspaper that day about partisan politics and how folks were poking each other with sharp rhetorical sticks.

There was not a word about how the men and women of the people's House on the Ways and Means Committee came together unanimously, not because it wasn't hard to craft solutions. It is hard to craft solutions, but they came together unanimously on consensus language to move out of committee.

It sounds like I am going to tell a story with a happy ending, Madam Speaker, and I should be. This should be a story about how we get things done, but what happened last night that you also won't see on the front page of the paper is, we took this consensus product that was passed unanimously by Republicans and Democrats, and we took it up there to the Rules Committee.

On a straight party-line vote, we ripped out all of the language protecting families who were trying to help their children at home; children who may not be getting everything they need through the public schools and so they get additional education at home; families that may have opted out of the public school system because they couldn't get what their children need, and they are homeschooling their children.

This language that was agreed upon unanimously in a bipartisan way, was ripped out in a party-line vote in the Rules Committee last night. We will

never vote on it in this Chamber, Madam Speaker.

The Ways and Means Committee in a long committee report, long committee language, they deliberated over this language and concluded that the right thing to do was to help all American families. But somewhere between that unanimous vote in committee and late last night in the Rules Committee, the decision came down from on high—and by on high I do mean your side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, because when you sit in the Speaker's chair, you have that kind of authority. The Rules Committee is, in fact, the Speaker's committee—that said we are going to rip this language out.

We offered an amendment last night. And I think it is only right that folks come to sit here to watch the people's business. They think that we are going to operate a transparent building here, and we work very hard to do that.

□ 1300

We offered an amendment last night in the Rules Committee to allow a simple vote of the people's House on this provision. If you don't like parents supplementing their students' education at home, so be it. I don't understand it, but so be it. But let's have a vote on it here just like they did in the Ways and Means Committee. On a party-line basis, the amendment to allow the people's House to have a vote on this provision was defeated.

You might not have noticed it when the Reading Clerk was reading, Madam Speaker. I don't want to tell you how long that took to read. We have a lot of things packaged in this bill. You will have to go all the way down to the 12th section of the rule, and the important words are: modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, modified by part B of the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report.

I will translate that for you, Madam Speaker. That means with no vote of this institution whatsoever and with no consultation or input from the Ways and Means Committee that crafted this legislation, we are going to revoke all benefits that would have gone to families who cannot find the services they need outside the home and, thus, are paying for those services inside the home.

Representative MITCHELL came to the Rules Committee to testify on this amendment last night, Madam Speaker. He said that his family is blessed enough to have the financial resources to take care of their special needs family member. But he talked about all the American families who he has met in his district—the Speaker has them in her district; the gentleman from Colorado has them in his district; and I have them in my district—who don't have the financial means and who don't have that sense of security.

The Ways and Means Committee in its wisdom unanimously said let's provide that security to American families. The Rules Committee in an error



in judgment repealed it because six Members voted “yes” last night. That is all it took. All it took to silence an institution of 435, Madam Speaker, was six Members voting to include this one seemingly innocuous line that disadvantages families and children all across this Nation.

It is another missed opportunity, Madam Speaker. We could have been here today celebrating the things that we do here together. We could have been here celebrating shared values. We could have been here today making a difference that your constituents have asked of you and my constituents have asked of me.

From the start of this process, for the weeks in committee, and for the weeks since the committee has passed it, we were doing exactly that. In about 6 minutes of voting last night, we erased it all. It took weeks to build bipartisan consensus, Madam Speaker. It took moments to erase it all.

We have choices in this institution, Madam Speaker. We made the wrong one in the Rules Committee last night.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and give us a chance to make a right one. But we only get so many bites at this apple. The trust of the American people in us as an institution and in us as individuals is not infinite. If we betray that trust often enough, it will disappear forever.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I will start where my friend from Georgia just left off, complaining about a tiny section in the bill that was stricken in the Rules Committee. He is correct, because there are individuals within our Caucus who don't think it is appropriate. The bill, however, has dozens of provisions that benefit Americans of every stripe, millions of people.

I would say to my friend from Georgia, if he feels so strongly about it, then bring it up in a motion to recommend. It isn't the last statement here. If my friend wants to see how many people want to vote for this, then certainly bring it up there.

Otherwise, as my friend said, this was a major step forward on retirement security for so many Americans. The perfect shouldn't be the enemy of the good because the bill, the SECURE Act, advances that.

Secondly, I wish Representative MALONEY was still in the chair, Madam Speaker, because she would recognize, as it applies to the Consumers First Act, that the purpose of having a single agency focus on consumers first was so important because we saw that by having certain activities handled by the Housing and Urban Development Department, others handled by the Federal Reserve, and others handled by the Federal Trade Commission, consumers were not being protected. Much of that

failure to protect—shark practices in the credit card industry and bad practices in the mortgage industry—led to the recession that we faced back in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The purpose of having an independent agency like the CFPB was to avoid that and put consumers first, just as H.R. 1500 is intended to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WOODALL for his advocacy as well as his oratory skills.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I want to talk about the SECURE Act and obviously the work that we did in the Ways and Means Committee in regard to not only H.R. 1994 but, more particular, a certain part of that bipartisan legislation that helps home healthcare workers save for their retirement. That would include the over 375,000 home healthcare workers in my home State of California.

Madam Speaker, we know that home healthcare is usually less expensive. It is more convenient and, most times, just as effective as the care people receive in a hospital or in a skilled nursing facility.

Home healthcare workers not only provide critical services for seniors and those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, but they also ensure that our loved ones with special needs are able to live their lives in a dignified manner.

That dignity, that skill, and that care, I can tell you, is something that I experienced firsthand throughout my childhood when my grandmother suffered a debilitating stroke and had to live with us. We took her in realizing that the effects of her stroke were permanent. That is when my family decided to ensure that she had appropriate home healthcare, not just the family but with full-time home healthcare workers.

With both my parents working full-time, we were forced—but, yes, we were also fortunate—to hire home healthcare workers, people who actually came into our home, took care of my grandmother, and allowed her to live a life with dignity and with the care necessary to enjoy the latter years of her life.

However, and unfortunately, right now under the current Federal Internal Revenue Code, home healthcare providers like those who cared for my grandmother are not able to participate in a retirement plan or save in an IRA. If you are a home healthcare worker in California who works in and helps out families, then you would be ineligible to participate in the CalSavers retirement program due to the current Federal law.

That is why this bill is so important, because it would allow home healthcare workers to contribute to a defined contribution plan or IRA, giving home healthcare workers the ability to save and prepare for their own retirement.

These healthcare workers give our family members dignity. This is the least that we can do for home healthcare workers so that they can retire with dignity.

That is what this bill does. That is one of the reasons why, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I did vote for this bill. It is also why I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, you heard the earnestness with which Mr. PANETTA just described the committee's work. You can go through every line of the committee's work, and you are going to find a story similar to the one that Mr. PANETTA has told about his family that applies to hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

That is what this work product was. That is what the committee spent weeks and weeks putting together. That is, candidly, what my constituents think we do up here every day: find problems, find partners, craft solutions, and bring them to the floor.

My friend from Colorado said that we shouldn't let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and I think he is exactly right. I haven't voted on the perfect bill since I have been here, Madam Speaker. You may have had that opportunity; I have not. I vote on bills that move the ball in the right direction. Even had I been king for a day, I couldn't have done it better.

But the flip side of “don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good” is that this bill passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously. It was perfect if bipartisanship was your goal. It is now good legislation. But with this change, it is perfectly partisan.

I would advise my colleagues that we spent a lot of time when we were in control—and I had the pleasure of leading the rule, as my friend from Colorado does today—protecting our Members from tough votes. You may not know, Madam Speaker, but the way the Rules Committee works, we could have offered waivers. If you wanted to strike protections for homeschooling families, if you wanted to strike protections from families who need to buy more than what they can find in their public school system for their special needs child, you could have brought an amendment to the floor of this House and said: I don't like those protections for those families. I want to strike them.

But then you would have had to have stood up and said that whatever your ax was that you were grinding that day took priority over those families. No Member in this institution wants to do that, which is why it comes to the Rules Committee as a seemingly innocuous line in a committee report and why it only takes six members to vote “yes” on it up there to make it a part of the underlying bill. It pretends that the committee voted on it when, in fact, they did not.



If we want to vote on these issues, then let's vote on these issues. But I will just tell my friends here in their fifth month of leadership that they will begin to rue the day that they told their new Members they could come to Capitol Hill, be a United States Congressperson, and not have to take tough votes.

We began to rue that day when we started down that road, and you only get one chance to start again.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Responding to my good friend from Georgia, we are going to have a chance to vote on this in the rule, and we will see whether or not a majority is in favor of the changes that were made as part of this rule package.

I would say to my friend, as part of the changes, we are adding Gold Star families and other children to this entire SECURE Act package to benefit them because in the race to give a \$2 trillion tax cut to the richest Americans, the Republican Party forgot about a lot of families and a lot of children. That is being corrected in this bill and in this amendment.

I urge my friend to take another look at it because this rule does benefit Americans all across the board and all income levels.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my strong support for the rule and for the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act.

This is an important retirement savings measure that has the support of a wide range of stakeholders, from the United States Chamber of Commerce to the Girl Scouts. What a credit to the committee for taking up this important legislation for the people.

I want to highlight section 105, a provision that the committee included to offer a tax incentive to small businesses for setting up automatic enrollment for their employees' retirement plans.

Madam Speaker, while half of private-sector employees have access to a retirement plan through their employer, it is estimated that just 15 percent of small businesses offer a retirement plan. Yet small businesses employ approximately half of the Nation's private-sector workforce.

Ensuring that small business employees have retirement options just like those who work for larger companies will increase small businesses' competitiveness at a time when the job market is tightening, and it will position these employees for a secure retirement.

Establishing automatic enrollment in retirement plans is critical. Participation rates in defined contribution plans like a 401(k) are above 90 percent

among new hires when automatic enrollment is the default. Moreover, 80 percent of participants increase their contributions over time. Alternatively, when employers do not offer automatic enrollment, new hire participation is below 50 percent.

Section 105 is based upon a bill that Mr. KELLY and I introduced, the Small Employer Retirement Savings Auto-Enrollment Credit Act. It would provide small businesses—those with up to 100 employees—a \$500 tax credit to defray the start-up cost of offering automatic enrollment. The tax credit would also be available to small businesses that convert their existing employee retirement program from an opt-in to auto-enrollment.

I was pleased to work with the chairman and his staff as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania on this issue. I urge adoption of the resolution and the SECURE Act.

□ 1215

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

Madam Speaker, I want to associate myself with everything my friend from Massachusetts just said. Every line of this bill, as crafted by the Ways and Means Committee, was designed to make a difference in a family's life, a difference that every single one of us can be proud of, and no one has a single bit of concern about that language.

The concern is that, instead of being down here celebrating this bipartisan product, in the dark of night it was converted.

My friend from Colorado is absolutely right. Not only was the home-schooling provision stripped out; a provision for Gold Star families was put in.

Now, I will just tell you, if you have any concerns, Madam Speaker, let me speak on behalf of the Republican Conference. If you want to stand up for Gold Star families, I have got Members who want to stand with you. I don't have some; I have them all.

To be fair, that has nothing to do with being a Republican. If I go to the Democratic side of the aisle and look for folks to stand with Gold Star families, I won't find one; I will find them all.

That is yet another thing that unites us, and kudos to RICHARD NEAL, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for taking an opportunity to make the bill better in that way.

I happen to have his manager's amendment here, Madam Speaker. This is the language that was taken up by the Rules Committee last night and, again, stuck in because only six people voted "yes." And page after page is dealing with those Gold Star families and trying to right that clerical error in drafting.

It is in the middle of page 3, with looks like seven words: "In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d)." You might not know what section 302 is and

what sections (b) and (d) are, Madam Speaker. I will read some of that to you, again, from the Democratic chairman's committee report, from the unanimous legislation that was passed.

The provision allows tax-free treatment to apply to distributions made for certain additional qualifying expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries attending elementary and secondary schools.

This is the offensive language that my friend referenced that some Members of his caucus had problems with that needed to be taken out. Here it comes. And I don't mean to offend you by reading these words, Madam Speaker, but I am just going to read them directly because I feel the burden to do it.

In addition to tuition, tax-free treatment would apply to a distribution made for expenses for fees, tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with the attendance of elementary school.

I am aghast. I am aghast that that is what the Ways and Means Committee decided to do. I am just going to tell you again, Madam Speaker.

The committee, in its wisdom, unanimously decided that we should speak up for families who have problems with expenses for fees, academic tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with their child's attendance in elementary school.

That is what this big to-do was about today. If you want to have a vote on the floor of the House that says, "I don't want children in elementary school to have any help," we can have that vote. I think it would lose, and so do my friends on the other side of the aisle.

That is why we are not going to have that vote. We are going to sneak it in, in the rule, and never be able to speak on it.

I appreciate my friend raising the Gold Star issue because that is yet another area of agreement, like the issue my friend from Massachusetts spoke about, like the issue my friend from California spoke about.

Madam Speaker, when you are in the majority in this Chamber, it is easy to get legislation passed. You control the Rules Committee. You control the votes on the board. You get to jam everything through.

I know. I spent 8 years in the majority, and that is the way every day is when you are in the majority.

But you don't have to jam everything through. Occasionally—just occasionally—there are bills, like this bill from the Ways and Means Committee, where every single line is dedicated to solving problems, problems that affect your district and problems that affect my district.

Occasionally—just occasionally—we find Members on both sides of the aisle sitting down, rolling up their sleeves, looking for solutions instead of talking

points. And, when that happens, you produce good legislation like the bill Chairman NEAL brought before us today.

We could have been down here celebrating that legislation, Madam Speaker. Instead, we are talking about the efforts to unwind it. And, for the life of me, I just don't understand why that is the path we have chosen.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, just in response to my friend, we have two bills that are encompassed in this rule: H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, and H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act.

The gentleman is focusing on one sentence out of dozens of provisions that benefit millions of Americans to complain about this rule and what was done.

Well, people get to vote on this rule. It isn't just 6 people or 10 people or 13 people. There will be 435 of us voting on whether we approve the rule or not. There are other opportunities to take care of the one sentence, if my friend is so aghast that it might be stricken in favor of dozens of other provisions, including the Gold Star family and children across America.

So, I appreciate the rhetorical abilities of my good friend from Georgia, but, quite frankly, he is missing the forest for the trees through all of this.

Secondly, H.R. 1500 is another key piece of legislation that is encompassed in this rule to really get consumers first again, as opposed to the financial services industry being first, which appears to be the effort of the Trump administration.

Madam Speaker, I would inquire of my friend from Georgia if he has any other speakers. If not, I suggest we close.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I don't have any speakers remaining. I have a powerful previous question vote that I would like to describe, and I am prepared to do that at this time.

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

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

We can't always get exercised about every single line in every single bill. We would never get anything done.

We have an amendment process so that, if you get exercised about a particular line in a particular bill, you can bring your amendment to the floor and we vote on it.

We are going to get into the appropriations process soon. When we spend money, it turns out to be one of those issues that people feel strongly about. We are going to entertain hundreds of amendments—Republican amendments, Democratic amendments.

Some Republican amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail. Some Democrat amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail.

But we are going to work the will of the body, and we are going to do the best we can to get to a final package that we move across the street to the Senate.

My frustration in this moment, Madam Speaker, isn't that we have the inability of moving things forward and discussing ideas. We do have the ability to do that, and we did that well in the Ways and Means Committee.

My frustration is that, when people don't like the way the committee unanimously, in a bipartisan way, did something because they have bipartisan concerns—and, to be clear, the concerns about this language are not Republican concerns. This language was not stricken because Republicans objected. This language was not stricken to satisfy any bipartisan concern of any kind.

This was purely a partisan exercise. And if you want to have a partisan exercise, I know 435 Members who are here all day, who will come down here to the House floor and vote on it, and we can do that.

So I want to offer that opportunity, Madam Speaker. For folks who think this is about public policy, as it was when the committee considered it in a bipartisan way, I want to offer an amendment to this bill.

If we defeat the previous question, Madam Speaker, I will offer an amendment that strikes this offending section. What that means in layman's terms is the bill would contain the Gold Star family language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber. It would contain the pension language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber.

It would contain every line designed in a bipartisan fashion by the Ways and Means Committee to make a difference in families' lives, but it would strike the majority's effort, with only six votes on the Rules Committee, to eliminate protections for home-schooling families altogether.

Vote against the previous question, defeat the previous question, and we can restore the bipartisan consensus language the Ways and Means Committee crafted, and we will add the Gold Star family language that my friend from Colorado and I agree on.

I don't serve in the Ways and Means Committee, Madam Speaker. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there. I don't serve on the Financial Services Committee. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there.

I serve in the Rules Committee. My job is to get bills to the House floor and to make sure that voices are heard on perfecting that language.

If we defeat the previous question, we can achieve exactly the partisan goal that the majority wants, but we can achieve it by actually having a vote of the House on that goal.

I think the American people are tired of things being done in secret. I think they are tired of things being done without the full story being told.

I talk to my friends on the other side of the aisle regularly, daily, hourly, Madam Speaker. I know the hunger from your side of the aisle to deliver on behalf of the American people. I know that hunger. I know the hunger on your side of the aisle to roll up sleeves and do the hard things. Because the easy things somebody else has already taken care of. All that is left for you and me are the hard things.

Going to the well of partisanship, pulling your sharp stick out of your quiver and poking the other team, those aren't the hard things. Those are the easy things. And, candidly, those aren't the surprising things. They have become all too commonplace.

I don't get to run this institution, but I do get a vote in it. I see opportunities for partnership, not because everybody wants it, but because it has to happen. Republican President, Republican Senate, Democratic House: The only way we succeed, Madam Speaker, is to succeed together. That is the only pathway forward.

If anybody in this Chamber ran for their seat because they wanted to stand up here and talk about it for 2 years, we have got a great pathway for you. But if you ran for this seat because you actually wanted to get it done, these bills today aren't doing it.

The Senate won't consider them. The President is not going to sign them. But there are ideas in these bills, Madam Speaker, as expressed unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee, that America is hungry for and you and I can deliver.

Let's exceed expectations today. Defeat the previous question, and let's restore this bill to the bipartisan compromise that the Ways and Means Committee created.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. PANETTA and Mrs. TRAHAN for joining us today to speak on this rule, the Consumers First Act, and the SECURE Act.

And, just briefly, with respect to the Consumers First Act, there are dozens and dozens of consumer, civil rights, and labor organizations supporting the Consumers First Act and how we are approaching it pursuant to this rule: Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, the Communication Workers of America, the Consumer Federation of America, and the NAACP, just to mention a few, with respect to the Consumers First Act.

With respect to the SECURE Act: AARP, SEIU, the Church Alliance, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the National Association of Women Business Owners.

And today is the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote, so here we have got the National Association of Women Business Owners, as well as the

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, TIAA-CREF, and the Air Line Pilots Association.

So we have consumer groups, insurance groups, and business groups supporting the SECURE Act so that millions more Americans can feel secure in their retirement, something that so many people feel insecure about today.

The bill has dozens and dozens of provisions. The amendment that is in the nature of the manager's amendment by Mr. NEAL includes additional children, Gold Star families, a lot of people who were left out by the giant tax cut that the Republicans passed a year and a half ago to benefit the wealthiest Americans.

These two bills are important steps forward for the constituents that you represent, Madam Speaker, that the gentleman from Georgia represents, and the people I represent.

The Consumers First Act will realign the Consumer Bureau's focus as a truly independent voice protecting consumers first. We have seen what the bureau can accomplish in the millions of consumers who were helped under Director Cordray, and our constituents need the bureau to continue to focus on them.

□ 1330

The SECURE Act is an important bipartisan package which addresses retirement security and makes an important technical change to the GOP tax bill for Gold Star families, among others. This package was developed by both sides of the aisle and with many stakeholders.

While the other side of the aisle may be upset over one provision out of dozens and dozens of provisions, I hope they can recognize the effort that went into this package to bring both sides together and the millions of Americans who are benefited by this legislation.

These are both commonsense bills, and I look forward to their passage.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

Mr. WOODALL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JUDY CHU of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I kind of wanted to object, but I didn't.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mr. WOODALL is as follows:

#### AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 389

In section 2, after "accompanying this resolution" insert "and the amendment specified in section 9 of this resolution".

At the end, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. The amendment referred to in section 2 of this resolution is as follows:

In the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, strike "In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d).".

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1427

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HAALAND) at 2 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 389; and

Adoption of House Resolution 389, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1500, CONSUMERS FIRST ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1994, SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MAY 31, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 389) providing for consider-

ation of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019; and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 191, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

#### YEAS—227

Adams	Frankel	McEachin
Aguilar	Fudge	McGovern
Allred	Gabbard	McNerney
Axne	Gallego	Meeks
Barragán	Garamendi	Meng
Bass	Garcia (IL)	Moore
Beatty	Garcia (TX)	Morelle
Bera	Golden	Moulton
Beyer	Gomez	Mucarsel-Powell
Bishop (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Murphy
Blumenauer	Gottheimer	Nadler
Blunt Rochester	Green (TX)	Napolitano
Bonamici	Grijalva	Neal
Brindisi	Haaland	Neguse
Brown (MD)	Harder (CA)	Norcross
Brownley (CA)	Hastings	O'Halleran
Bustos	Hayes	Ocasio-Cortez
Butterfield	Heck	Omar
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Pallone
Cárdenas	Hill (CA)	Panetta
Carson (IN)	Himes	Pappas
Cartwright	Horn, Kendra S.	Pascarella
Case	Horsford	Perlmutter
Casten (IL)	Houlihan	Peters
Castro (TX)	Hoyer	Peterson
Chu, Judy	Huffman	Phillips
Ciulline	Jackson Lee	Pingree
Cisneros	Jeffries	Pocan
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Porter
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (TX)	Pressley
Clay	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Cleaver	Keating	Quigley
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Raskin
Cohen	Kennedy	Rice (NY)
Connolly	Khanna	Richmond
Cooper	Kildee	Rose (NY)
Correa	Kilmer	Rouda
Costa	Kim	Roybal-Allard
Courtney	Kind	Ruiz
Cox (CA)	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan
Crist	Kuster (NH)	Sánchez
Crow	Lamb	Sarbanes
Cuellar	Langevin	Scanlon
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Cunningham	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Dauids (KS)	Lawrence	Schneider
Davis (CA)	Lawson (FL)	Schrader
Davis, Danny K.	Lee (CA)	Schrier
Dean	Lee (NV)	Scott (VA)
DeFazio	Levin (CA)	Scott, David
DeGette	Levin (MI)	Serrano
DeLauro	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
DelBene	Lieu, Ted	Sherrill
Delgado	Lipinski	Sires
Demings	Loebach	Slotkin
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Smith (WA)
Deutch	Lowenthal	Soto
Dingell	Lowe	Spanberger
Doggett	Lujan	Speier
Doyle, Michael	Luria	Stanton
F.	Lynch	Stevens
Engel	Malinowski	Suozi
Escobar	Maloney	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Carolyn B.	Takano
Espallat	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Evans	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Finkenauer	McAdams	Titus
Fletcher	McBath	Tlaib
Foster	McCollum	Tonko

Torres (CA)	Vargas	Waters
Torres Small	Veasey	Watson Coleman
(NM)	Vela	Welch
Trahan	Velázquez	Wexton
Trone	Visclosky	Wild
Underwood	Wasserman	Wilson (FL)
Van Drew	Schultz	Yarmuth

## NAYS—191

Aderholt	Gooden	Olson
Allen	Gosar	Palazzo
Amash	Granger	Palmer
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Pence
Armstrong	Graves (LA)	Perry
Arrington	Graves (MO)	Posey
Babin	Green (TN)	Ratcliffe
Bacon	Griffith	Reed
Baird	Grothman	Reschenthaler
Balderson	Guest	Rice (SC)
Banks	Guthrie	Riggleman
Barr	Hagedorn	Roby
Bergman	Harris	Rodgers (WA)
Biggs	Hartzler	Roe, David P.
Bilirakis	Hern, Kevin	Rogers (AL)
Bishop (UT)	Hice (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Rooney (FL)
Brady	Hill (AR)	Rose, John W.
Brooks (AL)	Holding	Rouzer
Brooks (IN)	Hollingsworth	Roy
Buchanan	Hudson	Rutherford
Buck	Hunter	Scalise
Bucshon	Hurd (TX)	Schweikert
Budd	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Burchett	Johnson (OH)	Sensenbrenner
Burgess	Johnson (SD)	Shimkus
Byrne	Jordan	Simpson
Calvert	Joyce (OH)	Smith (MO)
Carter (GA)	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NE)
Carter (TX)	Katko	Smith (NJ)
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Smucker
Cheney	Kelly (PA)	Spano
Cline	King (IA)	Staubert
Cloud	King (NY)	Stefanik
Cole	Kinzing	Steil
Collins (GA)	Kustoff (TN)	Steube
Collins (NY)	LaHood	Stewart
Comer	LaMalfa	Stivers
Conaway	Lamborn	Taylor
Cook	Latta	Thompson (PA)
Crawford	Lesko	Thornberry
Crenshaw	Long	Timmons
Curtis	Loudermilk	Tipton
Davidson (OH)	Lucas	Turner
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Upton
DesJarlais	Marchant	Wagner
Diaz-Balart	Marshall	Walberg
Duffy	Massie	Walden
Duncan	Mast	Walker
Dunn	McCarthy	Walorski
Emmer	McCaul	Waltz
Estes	McClintock	Watkins
Ferguson	McHenry	Weber (TX)
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	Meadows	Wenstrup
Flores	Meuser	Westerman
Fortenberry	Miller	Williams
Foxx (NC)	Mitchell	Wittman
Gaetz	Mooleenaar	Womack
Gallagher	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gianforte	Mullin	Wright
Gibbs	Newhouse	Yoho
Gohmert	Norman	Zeldin
Gonzalez (OH)	Nunes	

## NOT VOTING—13

Abraham	Herrera Beutler	Shalala
Boyle, Brendan	Huizenga	Sherman
F.	Jayapal	Wilson (SC)
Castor (FL)	Payne	Young
Fulcher	Rush	

□ 1458

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 220.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 190, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 221]

## YEAS—230

Adams	Gomez	O'Halleran
Aguilar	Gonzalez (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Allred	Gottheimer	Omar
Axne	Green (TX)	Pallone
Barragán	Grijalva	Panetta
Bass	Haaland	Pappas
Beatty	Harder (CA)	Pascarell
Bera	Hastings	Perlmutter
Beyer	Hayes	Peters
Bishop (GA)	Heck	Peterson
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Phillips
Blunt Rochester	Hill (CA)	Pingree
Bonamici	Himes	Pocan
Brindisi	Horn, Kendra S.	Porter
Brown (MD)	Horsford	Pressley
Brownley (CA)	Houlahan	Price (NC)
Bustos	Hoyer	Quigley
Butterfield	Huffman	Raskin
Carbajal	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Jayapal	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Rose (NY)
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Rouda
Case	Johnson (TX)	Roybal-Allard
Casten (IL)	Kaptur	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Ryan
Ciçilline	Kennedy	Sánchez
Cisneros	Khanna	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Scanlon
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kim	Schiff
Cleaver	Kind	Schneider
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Connolly	Krishnamoorthi	Schrier
Cooper	Kuster (NH)	Scott (VA)
Correa	Lamb	Scott, David
Costa	Langevin	Serrano
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cox (CA)	Shalala	Shalala
Craig	Lawrence	Sherman
Crist	Lawson (FL)	Sherrill
Crow	Lee (CA)	Sires
Cuellar	Lee (NV)	Slotkin
Cummings	Levin (CA)	Smith (WA)
Cunningham	Levin (MI)	Soto
Davids (KS)	Lewis	Spanberger
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Speier
Davis, Danny K.	Lipinski	Stanton
Dean	Loebback	Stevens
DeFazio	Lofgren	Suozzi
DeGette	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Lowe	Takano
DeBene	Luján	Thompson (CA)
Delgado	Luria	Thompson (MS)
Demings	Lynch	Titus
DeSaulnier	Malinowski	Tlaib
Deutch	Maloney,	Tonko
Dingell	Carolyn B.	Torres (CA)
Doggett	Maloney, Sean	Torres Small
Doyle, Michael	Matsui	(NM)
F.	McAdams	Trahan
Engel	McBath	Trone
Escobar	McCollum	Underwood
Eshoo	McEachin	Van Drew
Espallat	McGovern	Vargas
Evans	McNerney	Veasey
Finkenauer	Meeks	Vela
Fletcher	Meng	Velázquez
Foster	Moore	Visclosky
Frankel	Morelle	Wasserman
Fudge	Moulton	Schultz
Gabbard	Mucarsel-Powell	Waters
Gallego	Murphy	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Nadler	Welch
García (IL)	Napolitano	Wexton
García (TX)	Neal	Wild
Golden	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
	Norcross	Yarmuth

## NAYS—190

Aderholt	Amash	Armstrong
Allen	Amodei	Arrington

Babin	Graves (LA)	Palmer
Bacon	Graves (MO)	Pence
Baird	Green (TN)	Perry
Balderson	Griffith	Posey
Banks	Grothman	Ratcliffe
Barr	Guest	Reed
Bergman	Guthrie	Reschenthaler
Biggs	Hagedorn	Rice (SC)
Bilirakis	Harris	Riggleman
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Roby
Bost	Hern, Kevin	Rodgers (WA)
Brady	Hice (GA)	Roe, David P.
Brooks (AL)	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hill (AR)	Rogers (KY)
Buchanan	Holding	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Hollingsworth	Rose, John W.
Bucshon	Hudson	Rouzer
Budd	Hunter	Roy
Burchett	Hurd (TX)	Rutherford
Burgess	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Schweikert
Calvert	Johnson (SD)	Scott, Austin
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Shimkus
Chabot	Joyce (PA)	Simpson
Cheney	Katko	Smith (MO)
Cline	Kelly (MS)	Smith (NE)
Cloud	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Cole	King (IA)	Smucker
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Spano
Collins (NY)	Kinzing	Staubert
Comer	Kustoff (TN)	Stefanik
Conaway	LaHood	Steil
Cook	LaMalfa	Steube
Crawford	Lamborn	Stewart
Crenshaw	Latta	Stivers
Curtis	Lesko	Taylor
Davidson (OH)	Long	Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Lucas	Timmons
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Tipton
Duffy	Marchant	Turner
Duncan	Marshall	Wagner
Dunn	Massie	Walberg
Emmer	Mast	Walden
Estes	McCarthy	Walker
Ferguson	McCaul	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Waltz
Fleischmann	McHenry	Watkins
Flores	McKinley	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	Meadows	Webster (FL)
Foxx (NC)	Meuser	Wenstrup
Gaetz	Miller	Westerman
Gallagher	Mitchell	Williams
Gianforte	Mooleenaar	Wittman
Gibbs	Mooney (WV)	Womack
Gohmert	Mullin	Woodall
Gonzalez (OH)	Newhouse	Wright
	Norman	Yoho
	Nunes	Zeldin
	Olson	
	Palazzo	

## NOT VOTING—11

Abraham	Fulcher	Rush
Boyle, Brendan	Herrera Beutler	Upton
F.	Huizenga	Wilson (SC)
Castor (FL)	Payne	Young

□ 1513

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 221.

## REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ADAMS). Under guidelines consistently

issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

□ 1515

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### WHOLE VETERAN ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2359) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2359

*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 “Whole Veteran Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVANCING OF WHOLE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs memorandum dated February 12, 2019, on the subject of Advancing Whole Health Transformation Across Veterans Health Administration.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the accessibility and availability of each of the following services at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (including community based outpatient clinics, vet centers, and community living centers):

- (A) Massage.
- (B) Chiropractic services.
- (C) Whole health clinician services.
- (D) Whole health coaching.
- (E) Acupuncture.
- (F) Healing touch.
- (G) Whole health group services.
- (H) Guided imagery.
- (I) Meditation.
- (J) Hypnosis.
- (K) Yoga.
- (L) Tai chi or Qi gong.
- (M) Equine assisted therapy.
- (N) Any other service the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) An assessment of the health outcomes derived from the services specified in paragraph (1).

(3) An assessment of the resources required to expand such services to the entire Veterans Health Administration.

(4) A plan to provide the services referred to in paragraph (1) to veterans who reside in a geographic area where no community-based outpatient clinic, medical center, Vet Center, or community living center is located.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2359.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin my comments on H.R. 2359, let me acknowledge the centennial year of women's suffrage and the wonderful yellow roses we are wearing in acknowledgment of that centennial year. Happy 100th year to women's suffrage in America.

Madam Speaker, American healthcare systems are grappling with the need to redesign the delivery of care model to better meet the needs of veterans struggling with mental health conditions.

Two decades of increased social isolation, economic inequality, and prohibitive healthcare costs have seen an increased use of complementary and alternative medicine such as health coaching, chiropractic services, acupuncture, yoga, meditation, and equine therapy.

The Veterans Health Administration is one of the first healthcare systems to redesign care with a focus on maintaining patient well-being and early intervention, rather than a system designed to treat conditions and diseases only after they have occurred.

This redesign, VA's whole health transformation, will accommodate the veteran population and their unique needs while empowering veterans to control their health and well-being.

By improving well-being, veterans build resiliency that assists in the early intervention and identification of mental healthcare symptoms that, left untreated, can advance to the point of crisis. In 2017, VA launched the whole health transformation program at 18 flagship sites, with positive early outcomes.

According to a February 2019 memo on VA's whole health transformation, VA plans to expand the full program to an additional 18 sites by summer 2019,

and 140 medical centers have elements of this program.

The pace, efficacy, and reach of the whole health program are not known to Congress. H.R. 2359, as amended, offered by Congressman LAMB, requires the delivery of a report on VA's whole health transformation. It will contain an analysis of the accessibility of critical services so that Congress can better inform its efforts to ensure veterans are treated as whole people and not just episodes of care. This is particularly true for socially isolated veterans and veterans living far away from a VA facility.

A two-pronged strategy is needed to effectively address the veteran suicide public health crisis. The second prong is treating those veterans in crisis and making treatment more accessible. The first prong must address the complex set of social determinants that can lead to a crisis.

Early interventions in mental healthcare can prevent veterans from falling into crisis and having suicidal ideations. This legislation falls under the first prong of the strategy, which will support creating opportunities for early, pre-crisis intervention.

Congress must understand how VA has rolled out the initial expansion outcomes and the resources needed to continue the whole health program. This body must do everything in its power to reduce the number of veteran suicides in this country because this is a sustained, prolonged, and frustrating national public health crisis.

Sadly, over the weekend, yet another veteran died by suicide at a VA Hospital.

This bill is the first of five measures we will consider today to address mental healthcare and suicide prevention efforts at VA. Our work, however, does not end today. We will write more legislation. We will hold more bipartisan hearings.

In fact, a hearing right this very moment, this afternoon, with the Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and our Health Subcommittee brought VA and DOD to the same table to help end this crisis. It is a joint hearing through this joint subcommittee between the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

We will do whatever it takes to end these tragic incidents of suicide. I am fully committed to this effort. Losing 20 veterans a day is unacceptable.

I will be voting “yes” on this critical piece of legislation, and I call on every Member of this body to do the same and help reduce veteran suicide.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to associate my comments with the chairman's comments about women's suffrage 100th anniversary today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2359, as amended, the

Whole Veteran Act. This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to Congress on the implementation of the whole health initiative and include information in the report about the availability of a number of complementary and alternative treatments like meditation, acupuncture, yoga, and equine therapy.

VA's whole health initiative is a component of Secretary Wilkie's plan to transform the Veterans Health Administration into a more innovative, holistic, and veteran-centric healthcare system that puts veteran patients in the driver's seat.

I support the Secretary in that effort wholeheartedly, and I look forward to seeing how it will yield improved outcomes and satisfaction among veterans across the country.

The dissemination of best practices and complementary and alternative approaches to pain management is particularly important, given the ongoing opioid crisis that continues to plague our Nation.

I thank Congressman CONOR LAMB from Pennsylvania for sponsoring this bill and Congressman BARR from Kentucky for improving it with his tireless advocacy for equine therapy. I encourage all Members to join me in supporting it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), my good friend, the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the author of H.R. 2359.

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Whole Veteran Act. I thank the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Mr. TAKANO, and the ranking member, Dr. ROE, for their support for this act, along with all members of our committee.

This is a bipartisan bill with a bipartisan goal, which simply is to reform and continue to improve VA healthcare. Our bill will do that in two very important ways.

First, we aim to make the VA a leader in the future of healthcare. Many doctors have looked at how America's healthcare system is too expensive and too reliant on prescription drugs. It turns out that not all doctors think that the best way to deal with chronic pain, PTSD, or depression is to simply hand out more pills.

□ 1530

In fact, we believe that the future of healthcare is going to involve a mix of old and new methods of treatment.

In the future, patients who are suffering will get access to yoga, acupuncture, or meditation before they are ever exposed to these addictive drugs. This is safer and it is also cheaper, and we believe that, in the long-run, it is going to be better.

The NIH, which is the government's gold standard when it comes to re-

search, has looked at these treatments and found that yoga is effective for back pain, that acupuncture is highly effective for chronic conditions like osteoarthritis, and study after study has documented the benefits of meditation and healthy eating when it comes to anxiety, when it comes to stress, when it comes to chronic pain and all of the drivers of the suicide crisis that we are seeing today. In the right combination, these treatments will allow us all to spend less on healthcare and to feel better in the future.

But perhaps, Madam Speaker, the most important part of our bill is that it gives veterans more real choices and greater power to manage their own healthcare.

I visited a Whole Health Clinic here in Washington, D.C., and the veterans who were partaking in that clinic, they like it because they get to pick which treatments work well for them based on how it makes them feel. They pick the teachers they like and they go to the classes, where they meet other veterans who they get to know and spend time with, and it keeps them coming back.

One of the greatest challenges is how we keep people coming back to the VA for treatment once they have got it.

To stop veteran suicide once and for all, one of the most important things we have to do is go out and get all the veterans who are living in isolation and not using the VA for care.

Thirteen of the 20 veterans who are committing suicide every day are outside of the VA's reach. We have got to find them, and we have got to give them a reason to come back. This is what the whole health program does. It gives our veterans a reason to come back and stay in the VA that they didn't have before.

We don't know right now which parts of the whole health program work the best and which ones still need more work. Our bill will start to answer that question. But we do know one thing, which is that there is no time to lose.

Veterans serve this country because they want to prevent the suffering of others, and now too many of them are suffering themselves. We owe it to them to try anything that will work.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), my good friend and cosponsor of H.R. 2359.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding. I thank Congressman LAMB for his leadership on this bill. I thank Congressman ROE for his leadership on this. I want to also thank Chairwoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ on our appropriations bill. We continue to invest into the whole veteran.

I think it has been articulated here that we want the VA system to be the most innovative system that we have,

and I believe that the Whole Veteran Act is a step in that direction.

I have been researching and writing about some of these integrative health techniques around meditation, around yoga, around nutrition, around having health coaches, and to watch these vets transform after years and years and years of suffering is the most touching, the most inspirational thing we can do.

I have been in yoga classes where the teacher is a vet who, just years before, was kicking down doors in Iraq. Double amputee, and he is teaching yoga to veterans, and they are healing from post-traumatic stress.

This, to me, is what the government is all about. How do we get these government programs, these government facilities on the cutting edge, not just in healthcare, but all across the board? That is what this act is doing. It is going to save us money.

The default position for vets should not be how many prescription drugs can we get them on.

This is going to save us money. This is getting these vets their lives back. This is reconnecting them to their families, to their kids, to their spouses, to their communities. This is the most inspirational thing happening in government today.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Tracy Gaudet, who is leading patient-centered care in the VA. She has been plugging away at this for years. This is a step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I can't thank the chairman enough. I hope we continue to go down this road.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I know the Secretary of the VA. We have disagreements with him, but he, himself, has testified before our committee talking about these programs and about the importance of these programs.

If you want to be inspired, go sit in a meditation class with a Vietnam vet who has been traumatized for years and listen to them tell you about how these practices have healed them and have fixed their problems and reconnected them back to their families.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everybody for their leadership on this, and we will continue to try to support it from the appropriations side.

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

Madam Speaker, I, too, want to encourage all Members to support this.

We, in 2003, spent about \$2 billion on mental health and PTSD treatment at the VA; in this year's budget, it is \$8.5 billion. And we have not moved the needle at all on the number of veterans committing suicide.

So I think this is a great idea to see if we can use an alternative treatment to help lower this way-too-high rate and help.

When you think about 20 people a day dying of suicide, by their own hands, it is heartbreaking. So I encourage all Members to vote for this.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I also would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2359, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2359, 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.

#### VET CENTER ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1812) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1812

*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 "Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act".*

#### SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF VET CENTER SERVICES.

*Section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

*(1) by striking "clauses (i) through (iv)" both places it appears and inserting "clauses (i) through (vi)";*

*(2) by striking "in clause (v)" both places it appears and inserting "in clause (vii)";*

*(3) in subsection (a)(1)(C)—*

*(A) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and*

*(B) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:*

*"(iv) Any individual who is a veteran or member of the Armed Forces, including a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, who served—*

*"(I) on active service in response to a national emergency or major disaster declared by the President; or*

*"(II) in the National Guard of a State under orders of the chief executive of that State in response to a disaster or civil disorder in such State.*

*"(v) Any individual who participated in a drug interdiction operation as a member of the Coast Guard, regardless of the location of that operation.";* and

*(4) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:*

*"(4) The term 'active service' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10.*

*"(5) The term 'civil disorder' has the meaning given that term in section 232 of title 18."*

#### SEC. 3. PLAN TO PROVIDE VET CENTER SERVICES TO VETERANS LIVING IN AREAS WHERE NO VET CENTER IS LOCATED.

*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the*

*Senate and House of Representatives a plan to provide Vet Center services to veterans living in geographic areas where no Vet Center is located, including in the United States insular areas.*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the VA is authorized to provide counseling through Vet Centers to a broad group of veterans and servicemembers. These veterans and servicemembers include National Guard and Reserve members, those who have served on Active Duty in any combat theater or area of hostility, veterans and servicemembers who experienced military sexual trauma, those who provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to casualties of war, or servicemembers and veterans who deployed to combat zones or areas of hostility in a direct support role.

However, members of the National Guard, Reserve, or Coast Guard who participated in a drug interdiction or who served in a response to a national emergency, major disaster, or civil disorder are currently not eligible to receive Vet Center care. This is all despite the effects such experiences can have on mental health.

H.R. 1812, as amended, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act, introduced by Ranking Member ROE, would correct this oversight by extending eligibility for Vet Center care to these individuals.

It would also require the VA to submit a plan to Congress for providing Vet Center services to geographical areas in which no Vet Centers are located. These areas include territories of the United States, rural, and insular areas.

By assessing the steps necessary to provide access to Vet Centers for veterans living in these underserved areas, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act is ensuring veterans, servicemembers, reservists, and members of the Coast Guard and National Guard are allowed access to the lifesaving services Vet Centers provide.

This legislation increases access to services that provide early intervention for mental healthcare issues, which can reduce the risks associated with suicide.

The sad statistics show that, of the 20 veterans and military servicemembers

who die by suicide, 14 of those 20 have not received VA healthcare. This bill is one step towards changing this tragic number.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Dr. ROE, for his work on this important measure, and I call upon all of our colleagues to join us in voting "yes" on this life-changing piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1812, as amended, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

Every day, 20 of those who have worn our Nation's uniform die by suicide. Of those 20 deaths, each one is a tragedy.

There are approximately four deaths among Active-Duty servicemembers and nonactivated members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The number of suicides among never federally activated members of the National Guard and Reserve, in particular, has increased from 2005 to 2016, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs' most recent suicide data.

Many of these men and women have stepped up to serve their communities and our country honorably in dangerous and unpredictable situations. That service can have an understandable impact on mental health, but because they may not meet the legal definition of a veteran due to the nature of their service, these individuals may not be eligible for care from the VA.

This bill would address that issue by expanding eligibility for counseling and care at VA Vet Centers to those in the Reserve, National Guard, or Coast Guard who served in response to emergency situations in the wake of a disaster or civil disorder or support of drug interdiction operations who never deployed.

VA's 300 Vet Centers are community-based facilities that provide readjustment counseling services to Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Vet Center employees, many of whom are veterans themselves, are on the forefront of the fight to prevent suicide among servicemembers and veterans, to assure their successful transition following the military, and to assist them in recovering from whatever trauma or challenges they may be facing.

I am proud to sponsor this bill and grateful to Congressman MIKE LEVIN from California for joining me as an original cosponsor.

I am also grateful to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America for their support of this legislation.

It is my sincere hope that this bill will allow all of those who served in the National Guard, the Coast Guard, or the Reserve component to get the



help they need and lower the number of suicides among this population of heroes.

Madam Speaker, before reserving, I do want to note my surprise that the bill received a discretionary score of \$55 million over 5 years from the Congressional Budget Office.

It appears that CBO estimated that VA would need to create costly new capacity within the Vet Centers to care for those individuals newly eligible in this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have been to many Vet Centers, and the brick and mortar is already there. You don't have to do anything. The personnel are there. So there would be, if any, minimal costs.

However, I understand from VA that excess capacity exists within the Vet Centers that this bill would help fill, at little additional cost to the Department. I hope that could be taken into account for this bill, moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend and fellow Californian, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1812.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1812, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Tennessee and ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. ROE.

We must do more to address the epidemic of suicide among veterans in this country. We can start with ensuring all servicemembers have the mental health support they need.

Currently, most National Guard, Coast Guard, and Reserve servicemembers are precluded from receiving readjustment counseling services at vet centers. Guardsmen and Reservists often face emotionally challenging deployments to natural disasters, drug interdiction missions, national emergencies, or civil disorders that can have serious mental health consequences.

This bipartisan legislation is an important step in closing the mental healthcare gap for those servicemembers who compose four of the 20 veteran suicides we see each day in this country. As we continue to see veterans turn to suicide, often on the grounds of VA facilities, we must have an all-hands-on-deck approach, and this bill can play a critical role in this effort.

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

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this. I think it is a great step forward for our Guard and Reservists.

I will just pass along a quick story of one of the reasons why I have pushed this so hard. In my Tennessee Guard at home, my previous commander said that in the first 45 days he commanded the Tennessee Guard, he had four suicides. He knew he had to do something, so he instituted a program there to help lower veteran suicides.

We have lowered our suicide rate among our Tennessee guardsmen by 70 percent. We would like to make sure that all Guard and Reservists have access to the benefits they need, the therapy they need, and the help they need for their families by allowing them to get this help at the vet center.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 1812, as amended, so we can finally pass it into law and get justice for these veterans.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1812, 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.

#### NAVY SEAL CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" MULDER (RET.) TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2326) to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2326

*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 "Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019".*

#### SEC. 2. TAP DEFINED.

*In this Act, the term "TAP" means the Transition Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.*

#### SEC. 3. ACCESS FOR THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THE FEDERAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.

*Section 453A(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*"(4) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretaries of Labor and of Veterans Affairs shall have access to information reported by employers pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for purposes of tracking employment of veterans."*

#### SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR OFF-BASE TRANSITION TRAINING FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES.

*(a) EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (a) of section 301 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 10 U.S.C. 1144 note) is amended—*

*(1) by striking "During the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019"; and*

*(2) by striking "to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing such program to eligible individuals at locations other than military installations".*

*(b) LOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—*

*(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "not less than three and not more than five States" and inserting "not fewer than 50 locations in States (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)"; and*

*(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "at least two" and inserting "at least 20".*

*(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (f) of such section is repealed.*

#### SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR PROVISION OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AFTER SEPARATION, RETIREMENT, OR DISCHARGE.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make grants to eligible organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members.*

*(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to provide to members of the Armed Forces and spouses described in subsection (a) resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment training, and related services leading directly to successful transition, as determined by the Secretary.*

*(c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an organization shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may require.*

*(d) PRIORITY FOR HUBS OF SERVICES.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an organization that provides multiple forms of services described in subsection (b).*

*(e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant under this section shall be in an amount that does not exceed 50 percent of the amount required by the organization to provide the services described in subsection (b).*

*(f) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out this section not later than six months after the effective date of this Act.*

*(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide a grant under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the Secretary implements the grant program under this section.*

*(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out this section.*

#### SEC. 6. ONE-YEAR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TAP.

*(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the covered officials, shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity with experience in adult education to carry out a one-year independent assessment of TAP, including—*

(1) the effectiveness of TAP for members of each military department during the entire military life cycle;

(2) the appropriateness of the TAP career readiness standards;

(3) a review of information that is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under TAP, including mental health data;

(4) whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges veterans face entering the civilian workforce and in translating experience and skills from military service to the job market;

(5) whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges faced by the families of veterans making the transition to civilian life;

(6) appropriate metrics regarding TAP outcomes for members of the Armed Forces one year after separation, retirement, or discharge from the Armed Forces;

(7) what the Secretary, in consultation with the covered officials and veterans service organizations determine to be successful outcomes for TAP;

(8) whether members of the Armed Forces achieve successful outcomes for TAP, as determined under paragraph (7);

(9) how the Secretary and the covered officials provide feedback to each other regarding such outcomes;

(10) recommendations for the Secretaries of the military departments regarding how to improve outcomes for members of the Armed Forces after separation, retirement, and discharge; and

(11) other topics the Secretary and the covered officials determine would aid members of the Armed Forces as they transition to civilian life.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the independent assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary and the covered officials, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives—

(1) the findings and recommendations (including recommended legislation) of the independent assessment prepared by the entity described in subsection (a); and

(2) responses of the Secretary and the covered officials to the findings and recommendations described in paragraph (1).

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered officials” is comprised of—

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

(B) the Secretary of Labor;

(C) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(D) the Secretaries of the military departments.

(2) The term “military department” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

#### **SEC. 7. LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHANGES TO TAP.**

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense and Labor and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study regarding TAP on three separate cohorts of members of the Armed Forces who have separated from the Armed Forces, including—

(1) a cohort that has attended TAP counseling as implemented on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) a cohort that attends TAP counseling after the Secretaries of Defense and Labor implement changes recommended in the report under section 6(b) of this Act; and

(3) a cohort that has not attended TAP counseling.

(b) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the day that is one year after the date of the initiation of the study under subsection (a) and annually thereafter for the three subsequent years, the Secretaries of Veterans

Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a progress report of activities under the study during the immediately preceding year.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report of final findings and recommendations based on the study.

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The final report under subsection (c) shall include information regarding the following:

(1) The percentage of each cohort that received unemployment benefits during the study.

(2) The numbers of months members of each cohort were employed during the study.

(3) Annual starting and ending salaries of members of each cohort who were employed during the study.

(4) How many members of each cohort enrolled in an institution of higher learning, as that term is defined in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(5) The academic credit hours, degrees, and certificates obtained by members of each cohort during the study.

(6) The annual income of members of each cohort.

(7) The total household income of members of each cohort.

(8) How many members of each cohort own their principal residences.

(9) How many dependents that members of each cohort have.

(10) The percentage of each cohort that achieves a successful outcome for TAP, as determined under section 6(a)(7) of this Act.

(11) Other criteria the Secretaries and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration determine appropriate.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2326.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2326, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

I would like to recognize the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman and ranking member, Mr. LEVIN and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for their bipartisan focus on this issue, and the bipartisan way in which they have crafted this piece of legislation and have moved it forward.

Almost 30 years ago, the National Defense Authorization Act created the

first transition policy to assist servicemembers entering civilian life. This law provides that those who are being separated from Active Duty are provided services for counseling, training opportunities, finding employment, and other related information and services.

These services, more commonly known as the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, were amended recently by the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. This legislation called for mandatory participation of all servicemembers and improved transition resources by lengthening the process and lowering the class sizes.

While our veterans have found the TAP program to be highly beneficial, they find the sheer amount of information too overwhelming to absorb. Today, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2326, as amended, which aims to solve this problem.

This legislation would do several things to make TAP more effective.

First, this act would create a pilot program offering transition training off military bases, making the transition process easier to access for veterans and spouses. A review by the Government Accountability Office concluded that a program held off base would be beneficial, and the committee believes that such a program is worth examining in further detail.

In my own visits to TAP classes, I heard from servicemembers who felt they needed to attend TAP multiple times before they transition to civilian life because the resources aren't available off base. The legislation would create a grant program for organizations to provide multiple transition assistance services such as resume assistance, interview training, and job recruitment training from one program, location, and source.

Next, this act would give the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service and VA access to the Social Security Administration's resources to track in real time when a participant receives a new job. This is going to help improve programs and provide a better accountability of services provided by the VA.

Lastly, this bill would require a 1-year independent assessment of the effectiveness of TAP, as well as a 5-year longitudinal study of TAP which compares the effectiveness of using the program.

The 1-year independent assessment of the Transition Assistance Program's effectiveness shall be conducted not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act. The legislation requires the VA enter into an agreement with an entity with experience in adult education to carry out an independent assessment of TAP.

It also requires the Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration to conduct a 5-year longitudinal study of TAP to determine the need for TAP off base and determine if this program

would ease the process of participation for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses who may have had difficulty attending classes on bases.

Upon completion of the respective 1-year and 5-year studies, the Secretary of the VA shall submit the findings to Congress, where we can, again, assess the quality of transition resources provided to veterans and servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

One of the most important things our government can do to help our Nation's servicemembers is to ensure that their transition from military to civilian life is as seamless as possible. We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and I believe that so many of the problems that veterans encounter later in life could have been mitigated if they had a more supportive and successful transition. I know that the goal of this bill is to help servicemembers have as smooth a transition as possible to civilian life.

I will allow Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON from Texas, who is an original cosponsor of the bill, to go into the specifics in a moment. Before I do that, I want to thank him, as the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, for taking the time last Congress to sit down with stakeholders and really examine the transition process from the very beginning and look at the need for improvements.

While this bill was a culmination of a bipartisan review and work, it is only one step in the process to ensure a successful transition for all servicemembers. I know that we all remain dedicated to making improvements to this process to reach this goal. We were unable to persuade the Senate to act on this bill last Congress, and I want to thank Mr. ARRINGTON, Chairman TAKANO, and subcommittee Chairman LEVIN for picking up where we left off in pushing this bill through yet again. I am confident, with their continued support, we can ensure it is on President Trump's desk very soon.

Madam Speaker, I want to just say from a point of privilege, when I separated from the military, the U.S. Army in 1974, a long time ago, my transition: Was how quick can I get to the front gate? We have made huge improvements since the end of the Vietnam war. There really was no program for veterans then. It was a mistake then. I appreciate the efforts of my colleague to rectify this mistake.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2326, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also the author of H.R. 2326.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Texas, Mr. JODEY ARRINGTON. Mr. ARRINGTON was a friend of Mr. Mulder and represents his hometown of Plainview, Texas.

William Mulder, or Bill as his friends knew him, passed away nearly 2 years ago on June 9, 2017. He was a decorated Navy SEAL of 20 years whose awards included three Bronze Stars with Valor. He was also a father, husband, brother, and friend.

This legislation honors him by better equipping servicemembers for the challenges and opportunities they will face as they transition from Active Duty military service to civilian life. Far too often, the men and women of our Armed Forces lack the support and coordinated resources they need to return to civilian life and we cannot leave them behind. We owe it to those who have served and their families to ensure that they have everything they need to connect with community organizations, to pursue educational opportunities, to launch new careers, or to start their own businesses. That is why we must improve the Transition Assistance Program.

This bill would extend a pilot program for off-base transition training, allowing veterans and their spouses more time and convenience to digest and access resources.

It would also create a grant program for organizations to provide multiple transition assistance services such as resume assistance, interview training, and job recruitment training from a central source.

We can also improve the program by expanding access to better employment data at the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, which this bill does.

And, finally, it is important that we are constantly evaluating the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program, which is why this bill would require a 1-year independent assessment and a 5-year study of the program.

□ 1600

We have a solemn duty to ensure that our Nation's heroes are able to readily access the best possible services when it comes time to transition back to civilian life.

I do not believe that we are living up to that duty right now, but this bipartisan bill will help change that. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in support today.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my friend, and our original cosponsors: Mr. CISNEROS; ranking

member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS; Mr. CUNNINGHAM; and Mrs. LEE.

Together, we can do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We can give them the support and the resources they have earned and deserve.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend.

This is my sixth term in Congress, and I have served each one with GUS. I can assure you, there is nobody in this body, of the 435 of us, who is more supportive of our Nation's veterans than GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida 12.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

As ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I am proud of the work we have done in the subcommittee so far this year on a bipartisan basis and through regular order.

Last Congress, we worked together to make reforms to the Transition Assistance Program at the Department of Defense, enacting a portion of this bill in the National Defense Authorization Act. We created a more individualized process for servicemembers to undergo counseling and training for civilian life well before their discharge. I think that is the key.

The bill was formed as a result of multiple roundtables and hearings, which included stakeholders from my district who discussed the importance of community involvement in their transition process and stakeholders from all over the country, Madam Speaker. And yet, despite all the progress we have made, there is still more work to be done. I am grateful that we are revisiting this issue today.

H.R. 2326 will provide access to veteran employment tracking information to the VA and to the Department of Labor. It will also reestablish a pilot program for an off-base TAP program for veterans and their spouses, made available at locations such as local high schools and community centers. Madam Speaker, I think it is so important to include the spouses.

H.R. 2326 would also create a 5-year grant program at the VA for qualified community organizations that provide innovative transition assistance services to veterans.

I know we have many of these organizations in my district in Florida and all over the country. One example of this is Veterans Alternative in Holiday, Florida. I am grateful for the great work that they do.

Finally, this bill would require the VA, DOD, DOL, and SBA to coordinate their efforts to conduct a 2-year independent assessment and curriculum review of TAP and the transition process, as well as a 5-year longitudinal study on the effectiveness of these TAP changes.

I am glad to see the bill being taken up today by my friend and the subcommittee chairman, MIKE LEVIN,

whom I have gotten the pleasure to know this year.

I think I don't have much more time, but I want to give him so much credit for doing a great job as chairman of the Economic Opportunity Committee, as well as Chairman TAKANO and my good friend, Republican Ranking Member ROE. I also commend Representative ARRINGTON for doing a great job. We are helping our veterans.

Let's pass this good bill and get it to the Senate and to the President so it can become law.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), my good friend and member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee and cosponsor of H.R. 2326.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act.

First, I thank my colleagues, Congressmen LEVIN and BILIRAKIS, for all their hard work on this bipartisan bill and for their leadership on the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

I am honored to have helped introduce this important legislation, which will improve the military's Transition Assistance Program and help to ensure that our men and women in uniform can successfully transition to life in the civilian world at the end of their service.

H.R. 2326 will streamline the transition process and allow the VA to partner with third-party organizations that teach veterans critical job-seeking skills. By creating a pilot program for transition training off-base, this bill will also make that stressful transition process more convenient and accessible for servicemembers and their families.

Finally, this legislation will allow policymakers to more effectively adjust the program to the needs of our veterans by directing an independent assessment of its effectiveness and by expanding the VA's access to Federal employment data.

The bottom line is, we have a responsibility to our servicemembers to make sure that they are equipped with the tools to succeed both on the battlefield and when they return.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation and ensuring every veteran has access to the support that they have earned.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my good friend who was a previous chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and have him tell you about this bill because this was his friend.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, what a joy and a pleasure and an honor to serve under the ranking member's leadership in the 115th Congress, my first term. I thank him for letting me

lead the subcommittee and initiate the legislation that will have an impact—I believe a tremendous impact—on the lives of folks like my friend Bill, so I thank him.

Madam Speaker, I enjoyed working with Chairman TAKANO, and I congratulate him on his chairmanship. I thank him for being a great colleague and for being a friend to the veterans, most importantly.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman LEVIN for being such a gracious gentleman and statesman, to come up to me on the floor of the House and tell me he was going to pick up this ball and he was going to run it all the way down the field and into the end zone so that we can score points, not politically for Democrats or Republicans, but for the American people who expect that we take care of our veterans and, most of all, for our military men and women who are transitioning and have unique challenges in that regard, as Bill had. It meant so much to me.

If I don't say anything else here, I want to say thank you. I say that on behalf of Bill's family because I know it means a lot to them.

He is worthy. Bill Mulder is worthy to be on this legislation. Don't ask me, ask his teammates, his fellow Navy SEALs.

I mean, just look at him. He is Captain America. I am so jealous. I was always jealous. He was tough. He was strong. He was courageous.

Madam Speaker, I promise you this, that when he stood between you and me and the enemy, we were safe, and the enemy was scared, as they should be.

Thank God for Bill Mulder, and thank God for our men and women who wear the uniform.

Our country makes a tremendous investment in preparing our citizen soldiers to be freedom fighters, to be part of the greatest fighting force in all the world, but then we invest a fraction of that in their transition back to civilian life.

This is an investment in prevention, as has been said. If we can do a better job on the front end, then we can prevent folks from struggling with addiction, unemployment, homelessness, suicide, and a number of challenges that disproportionately affect our veterans.

Next Monday, we will celebrate Memorial Day and take time to pay tribute to those who not only served but made the ultimate sacrifice, those American heroes who never made it home.

However, even when our soldiers do return home from war, it doesn't always mean that the conflict is over for them. There is often a battle that continues to rage on. It is a big reason that we see so many soldiers take their own lives.

One of those veterans, sadly enough, was my friend Bill, my fellow Plainview Bulldog for whom this bill was named. I am so proud that this legisla-

tion bears his name, and I am so grateful that you guys kept it that way.

Bill was a warrior's warrior. He served this country with honor and distinction.

Like many veterans, Bill's greatest fight wasn't on the battlefield. It was the struggle that often ensues from the mental, emotional, and physical wear and tear of military service.

After 20 years as a combat Navy SEAL, Bill bore scars you couldn't see, and he struggled to make that transition from Active Duty to civilian life.

For a lot of these folks, it is not the skills gap that is important. It is not always the education gap. It is not even redefining your mission and purpose after such a sacred calling as to wear the United States uniform. Sometimes, it is a mental health issue.

I am grateful that we have included that in that comprehensive assessment and in this legislation because that was the case for Mr. Mulder.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I am sorry for going on a little long.

Let me just say, we owe this to the likes of Bill Mulder.

I really believe, Ranking Member, Chairman TAKANO, and Chairman LEVIN, of all the things I worked on, on the Veterans' Affairs Committee—and it was a tremendous honor; I didn't serve our country in the military, so this was my way of serving those who served—I don't believe anything is going to have a greater impact. And it may just save lives. I believe it will. I really do.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a small part of it. God bless our veterans. God bless those guardian angels that keep guard over us every day. God bless the United States of America.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, let me say that I extend my commendations to the work of my colleague from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON). I thank him also for naming the bill after such a distinguished warrior and someone who exemplifies the need for this legislation. We certainly wish Chief Petty Officer Navy SEAL Bill Mulder all the success in the world.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I think it is appropriate, as we approach this Memorial Day, as many families go on picnics, to remember what it means. We not only memorialize those whom we lost in combat, but I think we also memorialize those who are lost because of the invisible wounds of combat.

I can't think of a more fitting time to pass this bill for Navy SEAL Chief

Petty Officer Bill Mulder. It is a small consolation for his family, but I think they know his memory can live on by helping other veterans. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, before I begin my closing comments, I want to correct my remarks. I misunderstood. Chief Petty Officer Bill Mulder is deceased, and so I mean no disrespect to his family. We certainly are honored to have this piece of legislation carry his name in the hopes that it is going to serve many more veterans.

In his memory, I am most honored and privileged to make sure that this legislation passes.

□ 1615

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN and Mr. BILIRAKIS for these necessary improvements to the Transition Assistance Program. A testament to their work is the broad support they received from committee members on this bill, and I look forward to their future work on this as they continue to focus on and redefine the program.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2326, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BEATTY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2326, 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.

#### SUPPORT FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2333) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2333

*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 "Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act".

#### SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES, WORKLOAD, AND VACANCY RATES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS.

(a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, training, and vacancy rates

of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. Such assessment shall include a determination of—

(1) the extent to which the use and staffing of suicide prevention coordinators varies between Department facilities; and

(2) the extent to which the Secretary provides oversight of suicide prevention coordinators.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the assessment required by subsection (a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2333.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, according to the National Suicide Data Report for 2005–2016, approximately 20 veterans, Active Duty servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves die by suicide each day.

This rate is disproportionately higher than that of the civilian population. Of those 20 a day, 14 are not enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Part of the VA's effort to combat veteran suicide is by strengthening the role of the suicide prevention coordinator. The VA is the only healthcare system that has full-time employees dedicated to suicide prevention.

Suicide prevention coordinators identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care, conduct outreach, and promote awareness and best practices within the VA system. As of April 2019, the VA had approximately 444 suicide prevention coordinators stationed at medical centers across the country.

These coordinators manage care for almost 30,000 veterans who are high risk for suicide, in addition to managing their other duties as assigned.

In fiscal year 2018, these coordinators conducted more than 20,000 outreach events, reaching almost 2 million people. During the oversight trips to VA facilities, VA committee staff heard from coordinators who are overworked and struggled to keep up with their casework.

Last week, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and one of three Veterans Crisis Line call centers. Last year, the Atlanta VA crisis line received 3,600 referrals. The Atlanta suicide prevention team is staffed with

only eight social workers and one employee for administrative support to respond to all crisis line referrals and approximately 200 veterans identified as high risk for suicide.

Let me repeat that. They have eight social workers to manage 3,600 referrals and 200 high-risk patients a year. This team does all it can to keep up with the staggering number of referrals, but they simply do not have the capacity to conduct outreach to veterans in the community who may need help.

Suicide prevention team staffing shortages in Atlanta and at VA medical facilities across the country is why H.R. 2333, introduced by Congressman BRINDISI, is so important.

It would direct the Government Accountability Office to access the workload and vacancy rates of VA suicide prevention coordinators. This report is essential to better informing Congress of the current state of suicide prevention coordinators, the resources at the facilities where they work, and the challenges they face in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable veterans.

The role of these coordinators is vital to combating veteran suicide, and this report will illustrate where the gaps in care delivery exists, especially for the clinicians, social workers, and suicide prevention coordinators working on the front lines.

I fully support this bill and I really want to thank Mr. BRINDISI for championing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2333.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. This bill would require a Government Accountability Office report on the responsibilities, management, workload, training, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. The VA employs at least one suicide prevention coordinator in every VA medical center to coordinate, care for, and conduct outreach to servicemembers and veterans at risk of suicide.

These men and women are on the front lines of the fight against the tragic loss of 20 of our Nation's servicemembers and veterans every day to self-harm. We must ensure that they are appropriately staffed, supported, and overseen as they go about their difficult and incredibly important work. Passage of the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act today will help us do just that.

This is a bipartisan bill sponsored by several members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, including Congressman JIM BANKS from Indiana, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; Congressman MIKE BOST of Illinois, the ranking

member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Congressman STEUBE from Florida, a member of both the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and Health Subcommittee.

I am grateful to each of them, as well as the bill's lead sponsor, Congressman ANDY BRINDISI from New York, for their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 2333, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), my good friend and the author of H.R. 2333.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333 and taking action to address the crisis of veteran suicide.

As we know too well, data from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicates that 20 veterans die from suicide every day. I want to thank Chairman MARK TAKANO, and Ranking Member PHIL ROE for their bipartisanship and their commitment to addressing this crisis and bringing these bills to the floor today for a vote.

One area we have to get right is the work of VA's suicide prevention coordinators. Suicide prevention coordinators are the face of the VA's efforts to combat veteran suicide. They identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care. They conduct outreach and promote awareness and suicide prevention best practices within the VA.

However, many suicide prevention coordinators report being overworked and unable to keep up with their many responsibilities. In an effort to improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the VA, I introduced H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act with my friends on the other side of the aisle, Congressman BANKS, and Congressman BOST.

Clear Path for Veterans, which is a veteran service organization in my district doing incredible work to engage with and support veterans after they return home from service described this bill very well.

They said:

In the last decade, a large number of bills and initiatives have come out of Washington, D.C. aiming to combat veteran suicide. While all great in concept, we have not seen a huge change in suicide rates.

H.R. 2333 is a great way to measure what is effective, what is not, and how the VA should pivot on what they are currently doing to better meet the mental health needs of the veterans they serve.

The Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act would help ensure prevention coordinators have the resources they need to effectively provide veterans with critical mental health resources to prevent future veteran suicides.

Specifically, this bill would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy

rates of the Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators and submit a report to Congress within 1 year.

It is critically important that we provide our suicide prevention coordinators with the resources they need to successfully address the veteran suicide epidemic, and I believe this bill is a good step toward making sure that happens.

Again, I thank the committee for their bipartisan work. Taking care of our veterans is the responsibility that belongs to each of us, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and all of the veterans bills on the floor today.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my good friend, the previous chairman and now ranking member on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and a Marine veteran. I have seen this Marine drink from the Devil Dog fountain in Belleau Wood.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for allowing this piece of legislation to move forward.

As a veteran, first off, let me say this: I couldn't be prouder than to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee with the men and women we serve with because we get the opportunity to actually, hopefully, make a difference in those veterans' lives.

Twenty veterans commit suicide every day, and as was mentioned a while ago, that number hasn't changed much. So clearly, the current situation is not good enough.

We need to think differently about veteran suicide. President Trump recently took action on this issue. Now Congress is too, and it is vitally important that we do. We are acting in a bipartisan manner.

I am honored to stand with the gentleman from New York in supporting this legislation to improve the VA's suicide prevention coordinators.

Veteran suicide isn't a Republican or Democrat issue, and I am proud of the work we have been doing to try to help our veterans. They deserve our help, and, hopefully, with this bill, they are going to get it.

We have to turn the tide on our veterans that are committing suicide around this Nation at the level that they are. We have to do everything we can.

This bill, I believe, was a step in the right direction. I believe that we should pass it to the Senate as quickly as possible, and the Senate should then move forward, and then it should be implemented.

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

As I said in my remarks related to Mr. BRINDISI's legislation, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and it receives 3,600 referrals per year from the

Veterans Crisis Line, which is the highest number of crisis line referrals any individual veteran medical center receives nationwide.

I know that at the medical center itself that there is a 22 percent vacancy rate among mental health professionals. They have lost eight psychiatrists across their hospital and outpatient clinics since the beginning of the year. Staff who resigned have cited salaries and workload stress as their main reasons for leaving the VA.

Mr. BRINDISI's legislation goes to, however, the position of suicide prevention coordinators, and currently, the coordinators at this particular medical center are staffed up, but we are trying to figure out where these staff coordinator positions across the country may be vacant or insufficient because we know these crisis lines are being used. We have to make sure that we have the coordinators to respond to them.

But in addition to that, we need coordinators to do the outreach events to reach those veterans who are not connected with the VA. So the VA medical center in Atlanta is just one example of the staffing shortages in VA hospitals and clinics throughout the country. We know that beyond the stress and strain of our psychiatrists and of our suicide prevention coordinators, which Mr. BRINDISI's bill addresses, there are nearly 50,000 vacancies at VA.

If we want to fully address the veteran suicide crisis in this country, we need to make sure that suicide prevention teams are sufficiently staffed and do more to address mental health clinician understaffing.

Mr. BRINDISI's legislation is a significant step in making sure all of this happens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this piece of legislation.

I, too, have visited Canandaigua, which is in New York, which is a call center, and I think this committee is doing everything it can in a bipartisan way to help lower this unbelievable rate of 20 suicides per day.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I certainly appreciate the partnership and the spirit of the ranking member of the committee in addressing this national crisis of veteran suicide, and H.R. 2333 is an essential and significant step that we are taking to address this crisis.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2333, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a long-time advocate for veterans' well-being



and resources, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2333, the "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act."

I support H.R. 2333 because this legislation will provide much needed assistance to the VA to reduce the incidence of suicide among our veterans. The "SPCA" provides DVA suicide prevention coordinators with the resources needed to effectively do their job of providing veterans with critical mental health resources to veterans in need.

Madam Speaker, veteran suicide is a pervasive and critical issue, threatening, and in to many heartbreaking cases, taking the lives of many of our heroes.

Although, the Department of Veterans Administration has screening protocols designed to aid veterans and to stage suicide interventions, about 6,000 veterans fall through the cracks of this system annually, finding themselves without the necessary aid and resources that were promised to them.

Many suicide prevention coordinators and offices specializing in veterans affairs report being overworked and unable to keep up with the demand for their services.

On average, about 20 veterans die every day by suicide and since 2017, 25 veterans have taken their lives on the grounds of Veterans Affairs hospitals, including seven this year and at least four last month. These veterans were actively seeking help from an unprepared and under resourced agency before they took their lives.

It is long past time for Congress to provide the help needed to address the troubling increase in veteran suicides and help improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the at DVA.

It is imperative that the DVA has the tools it needs to serve every veteran that walks through the door.

The "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act" would require the Comptroller General to assess the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Coordinators and report it to Congress within one year, on the ability of the DVA to detect and protect veterans from self-harm.

It is critically important that we provide suicide prevention coordinators with the resources needed to successfully combat the troubling trend of veteran suicide, and I believe this bill is a necessary step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that a veteran will commit suicide every hour.

The fact that veterans make up just 20 percent of the male population, yet veterans make up close to 32 percent of all male suicides is shocking and must spur our action.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with the passage of H.R. 2333, the "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2333.

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.

## FOSTERING INTERGOVERNMENTAL HEALTH TRANSPARENCY IN VETERAN SUICIDES ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2340) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2340

*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 "Fostering Intergovernmental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act" or "FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act".*

### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

*Section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

*"(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) In the case of the suicide or attempted suicide of any veteran that occurs in, or on the grounds of, a Department facility, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Senators and member of Congress representing the district in which the facility is located and the Senators and member of Congress representing the district in which the veteran resides the following notices:*

*"(A) Not later than seven days after the date on which the suicide or attempted suicide occurs, notice of—*

*"(i) the suicide or attempted suicide; and*

*"(ii) the name of the facility and location where the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.*

*"(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), not later than 60 days after such date, notice of the following information (if available) regarding the veteran who committed or attempted to commit suicide:*

*"(i) The enrollment status of the veteran with respect to the patient enrollment system of the Department under section 1705 of this title.*

*"(ii) The most recent encounter between the veteran and any employee or facility of the Veterans Health Administration before the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.*

*"(iii) Whether the veteran had other medical insurance or coverage (including TRICARE, Medicare, and Medicaid).*

*"(iv) The Armed Force in which the veteran served.*

*"(v) The time period when the veteran served in the Armed Forces.*

*"(vi) The age of the veteran.*

*"(vii) The marital status of the veteran.*

*"(viii) The employment status of the veteran.*

*"(ix) The housing status of the veteran.*

*"(x) The gender identity of the veteran.*

*"(xi) The sexual orientation of the veteran.*

*"(xii) The race of the veteran.*

*"(xiii) Confirmation that the Secretary has provided notice to the immediate family members of the veteran regarding any Department support or assistance for which such family members may be eligible.*

*"(C) In collecting and reporting information under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take all steps the Secretary determines necessary to respect the privacy and dignity of the veteran and the family of the veteran.*

*"(2) Each notice submitted under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include a copy of guidance developed by the Secretary*

*for purposes of dissemination that is designed to—*

*"(A) deter the sensationalism of suicide;*

*"(B) provide information regarding warning signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide; and*

*"(C) provide notice of the resources the Department offers to veterans who may be at risk of suicide, including the Veterans Crisis Line and readjustment counseling provided through Vet Centers."*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2340, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of this year, seven—seven—veterans have died by suicide in or on the grounds of VA facilities. Sadly, another suicide occurred at a VA hospital in Washington just this weekend.

Currently, VA staff notify both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the events as a matter of courtesy; however, should the Department's leadership change, there is no assurance this courtesy would continue.

I have made veteran suicide prevention the top priority for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs because 20 suicides a day is far too many. One suicide is far too many. But to address this alarming trend, Congress must be informed when a suicide occurs on a VA campus and must be provided all relevant data.

This information will allow the committee to conduct appropriate oversight, write legislation that will improve outcomes, and, when necessary, hold individuals accountable when there are clear failures that impact the timely and adequate care for veterans.

As such, H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act, would require the VA Secretary to notify Congress following an attempted or a completed suicide by a veteran in or on the grounds of a VA facility.

This measure also requires VA to provide Congress with communications guidance to deter the sensationalism of suicide, provide information on identifying the warning signs often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide, and identify resources offered by the Department for at-risk veterans, including the Veterans Crisis Line and Vet Center readjustment counseling.

It is essential that this information be shared, regardless of leadership at



VA, what party controls Congress, or who occupies the White House.

I thank Congressman ROSE, a combat veteran, for leading the fight against this tragic national public health crisis, and I want to commend him for his leadership and for writing this important legislation that will ensure Congress has all the data it needs to truly understand and reduce veteran suicide.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to report to the local congressional delegation, as well as to the committee, whenever a veteran attempts or dies by suicide in or on the grounds of a VA facility.

We have all heard the heartbreaking stories of veterans who have died by suicide on VA campuses, including five veteran suicide deaths in the last several weeks alone. There is no indication that these events represent an increase in the rate of suicide among servicemembers and veterans, but they are particularly poignant because they occur so close to help and appear to be an indictment on the healthcare system that was created to support them.

To be clear, suicide is a national public health crisis that is not unique to VA, the military, or veterans. However, we must pay careful attention to the incidents of suicide among those who have served and sacrificed on our behalf and do everything we can to point those in crisis to the resources they need to recover from the traumas and live long, full, healthy lives.

I am grateful to Congressman MAX ROSE from New York for sponsoring this bill, which will allow us to learn all we can about the suicides that occur on VA campuses so that we can take action that may save other lives in the future.

I encourage all Members to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2340, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2340, 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.

## VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1200

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019”.

### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2019, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2019, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2019, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

### SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2020.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1200.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1200, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019 would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of disability compensation for service-connected veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of veterans, effective December 1, 2019.

Now, this bill would also increase these rates by the same percentage as the percentage by which Social Security benefits are increased effective December 1, 2019, and require that VA publish the increased rates in the Federal Register.

To me, the actual cost-of-living adjustment to veterans’ benefits, otherwise known as COLA, is much more than a rate adjustment tied to inflation. In reality, it is a quality-of-life guarantee in retirement years, especially for veterans suffering with service-connected disabilities and ailments.

It also comes with the assurance for veterans that their survivors will not see a steady decline in benefits if the economy changes and costs rise after they are gone. This guarantee is a great source of comfort for veterans as they age. I know this because they tell me this everywhere I go.

The yearly COLA increase is a recognition and appreciation of a grateful nation of the service and sacrifice of those who volunteer to wear the uniform of our country.

Participating in this gesture of appreciation is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. As chairman, I am honored to be leading this effort to say thank you.

I want to recognize the work of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee chair, ELAINE LURIA, and ranking member, MIKE BOST, for sponsoring H.R. 1200 and for bringing this bill to the floor today.

I am pleased that we are considering this bill early this year so veterans will not be concerned about its passage by the December 1 deadline.

I wholeheartedly support H.R. 1200 and urge all my colleagues to do so as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1200, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

In keeping with the traditions of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, this bill was introduced by Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair ELAINE LURIA and Ranking Member MIKE BOST. I appreciate their commitment to ensuring that veterans and their families can afford living expenses when prices go up.

H.R. 1200 authorizes a cost-of-living increase for veterans and their families next year if Social Security recipients receive an increase.

To put this in perspective, in 1975, a veteran who was rated totally disabled would receive at least \$655 in monthly disability compensation. Because of the COLAs that Congress has passed for decades, totally disabled veterans now receive \$2,907 in tax-free monthly disability compensation, an increase of 443 percent over the years. As you can see, H.R. 1200 is necessary to prevent inflation from eroding the value of veteran and survivor benefits.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1200, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), who is my good friend and the chairwoman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1200.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1200, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

In Congress, I have vowed to keep our Nation's veterans at the top of my mind, and I plan to deliver on that promise through this critical piece of legislation.

I represent a coastal Virginia district with eight major military installations, including Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval station in the United States, so veterans are clearly a critical part of my constituency, just as they are honored members of every congressional district across America.

Our veterans put their lives on the line and are deployed far from home to keep America safe. As a 20-year Navy veteran myself, I am proud to bring a bill to the floor that would eliminate the erosions of benefits they earned in service to our country.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would recognize that the benefits we provide our veterans need to be modernized and increased the same way that Social Security has raised benefits to meet cost-of-living increases.

□ 1645

My bill enhances benefits for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses, and dependency and indemnity compensation to children.

We have seen costs for disability care, clothing, and childcare increase over the years, and it is vital that we

continue to provide benefits that actually meet the demands that our veterans see on the ground.

A cost-of-living increase would aid veterans, their families, and their survivors to help maintain the value of their benefits against inflation. Without consistent increases, veterans and their families may not be able to have a consistent quality of life into their later years.

Providing quality benefits to our veterans and their dependents can change lives, and Congress must honor the commitment to those American heroes who served in harm's way so that we can live in peace at home.

I thank my colleagues on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and my ranking member, MIKE BOST, for being a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge swift House passage so that we can do our part to push this into law and help our Nation's veterans.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and a marine veteran.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, this is a must-pass bill.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for moving this piece of legislation forward as well.

Many disabled veterans and their families depend on their veterans benefits to pay for things like food and medicine. For many of these veterans, these payments are a lifeline. In some cases, the benefits may even be the only income that the veteran has.

It is only fair that we ensure that the benefits paid to veterans who were injured during military service do not lose value because of inflation. If we don't, it could become hard for people who were injured while serving our Nation in uniform to keep their heads above water.

I want to thank Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair LURIA for her introduction of the bill.

Madam Speaker, this bill has always enjoyed bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this commonsense bill.

I think my last duty assignment was probably in Mrs. LURIA's district, Fort Eustis, Virginia. That is where my last 9 months in the Army was.

I was raised in a military town: Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Tennessee. I grew up around the military, and I just cannot thank them enough.

This is the very least we can do for our disabled veterans, to give them a COLA which will, hopefully, make their lives a little bit better and thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation,

and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, join my ranking member in asking all of our colleagues to pass H.R. 1200.

I thank Chairwoman LURIA and Ranking Member BOST of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1200.

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.

#### VETERANS' CARE QUALITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2372) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2372

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act".*

#### SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENTITIES RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement entered into by the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health and a non-Department of Veterans Affairs entity relating to—

(1) suicide prevention activities and outreach; and

(2) the provision or coordination of mental health services during the five-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of—

(1) the size of the catchment area of each such entity;

(2) the staffing structures of such entities;

(3) any accreditation or licensure any such entity has obtained in relation to the services the entity provides;

(4) any variances in the subpopulations of veterans served by such entities;

(5) any limitations any such entity may face in carrying out its obligations under the memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement;

(6) the extent to which the Under Secretary provides oversight and tracks outcomes of such entities;

(7) any variations in the structure or requirements of the memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement;

(8) a breakdown of the percentage of such entities that serve—

(A) women veterans;

(B) minority veterans;

(C) veterans who are over the age of 55;

(D) veterans between the ages of 18 and 34;

(E) veterans who reside in United States insular areas; and

(F) veterans' families; and

(9) any measures taken to ensure the secure exchange of data and information between such entities and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 270 days after the completion of the assessment under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the results of the assessment.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2372, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, to meet the needs of veterans, VA has long relied on community partners to provide outreach and services, particularly to address mental health needs and suicide prevention.

The number of mental health- and suicide prevention-related agreements between VA and these organizations has increased exponentially since 2014. It is anticipated that these relationships will continue to grow in the months following the signing of Executive Order No. 13861 on March 5, 2019.

Now, this executive order seeks to establish grants to local communities to better collaborate and integrate service delivery and resources for veterans. As reliance on outside groups grows, Congress must better understand the effectiveness of the programs and mental health services these private organizations offer. VA must also ensure such partnered organizations are able to provide quality, culturally competent, evidence-based services to veterans.

Congresswoman UNDERWOOD's legislation, H.R. 2372, as amended, would require the Government Accountability Office to study the effectiveness of these partnerships between VA and organizations providing services related to suicide prevention and mental healthcare.

When complete, GAO would report their findings to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. As part of the assessment, GAO is required to look at several factors, such as the staffing structure of the organization, its accreditations or licensures, the level of oversight and tracking of outcomes by VA, and the secure exchange of data and information.

The GAO would also be required to study the ability of these organizations to serve unique subsets of the veteran population, including, women, minorities, older and younger veteran cohorts, families, and veterans who reside in U.S. insular areas.

I thank Ms. UNDERWOOD for introducing this legislation because it will ensure VA is responsibly leveraging its community partnerships to reduce veteran suicide and support VA in its transformation to a public health approach to suicide prevention. This public health approach focuses on prevention and intervention before veterans are in crisis.

As I previously mentioned, a two-pronged strategy is necessary to address the national crisis of veteran suicide. These Federal, State, and local partnerships are integral to the first prong of the strategy of prevention and early intervention.

It is critical that we develop these partnerships as part of an infrastructure to support veterans. This legislation will ensure we are using taxpayer funds effectively to partner with those organizations providing quality, evidence-based programs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, and I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2372, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2372, as amended, the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act.

This bill is sponsored by Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD of Illinois, and I thank her for her efforts to bring it to the House floor today.

This bill would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement entered into by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other governmental or private-sector entities regarding suicide prevention activities and outreach, as well as the coordination of mental health services, during the 5-year period preceding the date of enactment.

For the last two decades, approximately 20 of our Nation's servicemembers and veterans have died by suicide on a daily basis.

Suicide is, unquestionably, a tragedy that impacts all Americans and is a crisis that VA cannot combat alone. In light of that, VA has become increasingly mindful of the need to collabo-

rate with partners in both the public and private sectors to connect with servicemembers, veterans, and their families wherever they reside and with whatever they may be struggling.

This bill would ensure that Congress has insight into those collaborations and whether or not they are working as intended to reduce incidents of suicide among those who have served our country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), my good friend, member of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and author of H.R. 2372.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, I am humbled to see these bipartisan efforts to bring forward legislation that will help all veterans receive the care that they have earned through their service to our Nation.

I am so pleased to see the chairman's focus on ensuring access to healthcare for veterans, particularly women veterans, who face unique challenges navigating a VA system originally designed to serve men.

I am committed to working to make needed improvements to the VA by working with my colleagues on the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Congressional Caucus and on the Women Veterans Task Force.

I am also pleased to see this bipartisan, wide-ranging focus on veterans' mental health and suicide prevention.

Our work, however, has just begun. We have an urgent responsibility to continue to fight for the highest standards of care on behalf of veterans.

Despite much good work by the VA and significant Federal investment, the veteran suicide rate hasn't gone down. We must empower the VA to find innovative, effective ways to end this crisis. That is why I have introduced this bill, which will address a vital but overlooked part of veteran suicide prevention.

The bill directs the GAO to evaluate the effectiveness of agreements that the Department of Veterans Affairs has with outside providers for mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Expanding access to care for veterans struggling with mental health or with thoughts of suicide is an essential part of reducing veteran suicide rates, and partnering with providers outside the VA is just one way to do that. But there just isn't enough data on the ability of these outside providers to meet the high standards of care we expect from the VA.

All veterans deserve access to convenient and high-quality healthcare, and it is unacceptable that outside providers are not currently held to the same high standards as the VA.

The mission of the VA is undermined each time a veteran receives substandard care. My bill would help ensure outside providers are held to the standard of providing high-quality mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Our efforts to stop veteran suicide need to focus on wider, better informed, and data-driven paths to tangible results so that we can save lives. This bill is about increasing transparency so that we can ensure that those who have served our Nation are not left behind when they return home.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs who have reaffirmed their commitment to this issue and who have acted so quickly to respond to the veteran suicide crisis with the focus and resources it deserves.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for submitting this legislation today. I think it is much needed. I have thought it all along. Let's find out what works and what doesn't work. I appreciate her doing this, and I feel like it will be supported by the entire body.

I encourage all Members of the body to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for introducing H.R. 2372, and the tremendous, tremendous professional background she brings to her role in Congress, and for introducing legislation that will ensure that we hold private organizations to the same standard of care that we impose internally on the VA.

So I do urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2372, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2372, 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.

## ESTABLISHING VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2045) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans

Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2045

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

### SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

#### “CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

“Sec.

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

“8003. Annual report to Congress.

#### “§8001. Organization of Administration

“(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

“(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

#### “§8002. Functions of Administration

“The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

“(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

“(2) Educational assistance programs.

“(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

“(4) The verification of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f) of section 8127 of this title, including the administration of the database of veteran-owned businesses described in such subsection.

“(5) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

“(6) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

#### “§8003. Annual report to Congress

“The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

“(1) The number of claims received.

“(2) The number of claims decided.

“(3) The average processing time for a claim.

“(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

“(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

“(6) The amounts expended for information technology.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United

States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

#### “80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration .... 8001”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2020 for the General Operating Expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration \$3,025,000,000.

(d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such employee after such transfer.

### SEC. 2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

#### “§306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

“(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

“(1) information technology; and

“(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

“(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

“(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

“(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) The chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

“(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

“(3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “, other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

### SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the progress toward establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4, and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not transfer the function of

providing any services to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4 until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives certification that—

(1) the transition of the provision of services to such Administration will not negatively affect the provision of such services to veterans;

(2) such services are ready to be transferred.

(c) DEADLINE FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the certification required by subsection (b)—

(1) no earlier than April 1, 2020; and

(2) no later than September 1, 2020.

(d) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary fails to submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the reason why the certification was not made by such date; and

(2) the estimated date when the certification will be made.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2045, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, when our service-members conclude their military service, they are taxed with returning to civilian life after putting their lives on hold for years. This is the sacrifice they make for our security.

In exchange, we owe them more than a thank you and well wishes. We owe them a commitment that their transition to civilian life will go smoothly, and a VA that responds to their needs.

That is why we passed the first GI Bill nearly 75 years ago, and why we continue today to make improvements to provide veterans with the benefits they have earned.

Unfortunately, VA has struggled to track the effectiveness of education and employment programs and, consequently, Congress has struggled to determine the Department's resource needs. We have identified a contributing factor through hearings and discussions with our Veterans Service Organizations that the Veterans Benefits Administration is simply asked to do too much.

With the focus on managing countless compensation claims, the responsibility of managing transition education, and housing benefits often takes a back seat.

To put it in perspective, the Veterans Benefit Administration's structure has not significantly changed since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1930.

During the last 89 years, the services needed by veterans have drastically changed, and that is why our committee has an Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. It is time for the VA to understand this as well.

The VET OPP Act, as amended, would create a new administration within the department to manage educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education and career counseling programs, and broadly defined transition assistance programs that are shared across agencies.

Now, that means veterans' education, housing, and economic programs will have a dedicated Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration will solely focus on fulfilling these promises to veterans, so that they get the education that they want, the housing they need, and the careers they deserve.

During our April 9 Economic Opportunity legislative hearing, this proposal received support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Enterprise Institute, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Now these organizations know firsthand how hard it is to navigate the process of using benefits, so I want to thank the hard work of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for holding hearings on H.R. 2045, as amended, where this legislation received universal acclaim from our VSO community.

I also want to thank our VSO community, and the American Federation of Government Employees, who worked with us to make this legislation work for all veterans and all employees currently employed at the VA.

This is a bipartisan bill because we are not trying to make a political point or attack the VA. Instead, we simply want to make the VA run more effectively for the veterans it serves.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2045, as amended, the Veterans' Education Transition and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act, or the VET OPP Act.

Madam Speaker, investing in education and employment opportunities for our Nation's veterans is one of the Department of Veterans Affairs' most important but least recognized missions.

Today, programs concerning education and employment are embedded within the Veterans Benefit Administration which, understandably, devotes

most of its time, attention, and resources to disability compensation-related issues and backlogs that rise and fall with time.

The focus on compensation programs creates programs when other VBA programs need attention. An example of this was the implementation last fall of the Forever GI Bill which was, to say the least, rocky, the start was.

While I know that the VA has many dedicated employees who tried their best to prevent the delays that occurred, I do believe that if the implementation of this law had received more attention from senior leaders at VA, things could have been better.

The VET OPP Act is a means to mitigate these problems in the future. The bill would create a new, fourth administration at VA which would be called the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and led by a new Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.

The new Under Secretary would oversee education benefits like the GI Bill, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, VA's home loan program, the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP program, and the small business programs. Creating a new administration within VA to house education and employment programs will ensure that those programs receive the focused leadership time and attention that they deserve.

I appreciate my friend and colleague, Congressman WENSTRUP from Ohio, for championing this legislation. It has my full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend, chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a cosponsor of H.R. 2045.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2045, the Veterans' Education Transition and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or VET OPP Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Ohio, Mr. WENSTRUP. We have a responsibility to provide America's servicemembers with the best possible resources and opportunities as they transition back to civilian life, and we must do more to meet that responsibility.

Education, employment, housing, and transition assistance programs are critical to veterans' economic success. But many veterans aren't receiving these opportunities because of bureaucratic red tape at the VA. These programs are currently lumped with compensation programs under the Veterans Benefits Administration.

As chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, one of my top priorities is ensuring that veterans are receiving their benefits as efficiently as possible, and it is clear that the current structure at the VA isn't meeting this need.

This bipartisan bill will allow us to deliver economic resources more effectively by creating a new Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration at the VA and bringing more oversight and accountability to economic programs for veterans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend, and a Member I have served with on the Veterans' Affairs Committee the entire time I have been in Congress. As I have said previously, there is no one in this body, in this House that I have seen that cares for veterans more than Congressman BILIRAKIS does, and he is the ranking member on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 2045, the Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or the VET OPP Act of 2019, which would create a significant structural change at the Department of Veterans Affairs to better align and specialize economic opportunity for our veterans, our true heroes.

As ranking member of the VA Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I know this committee understands the importance of prioritizing veterans' education, workforce training, transition, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

However, the way the VA is structured, under the current system, it puts all benefit programs under one roof at the Veterans Benefits Administration. While I certainly understand that the VBA focuses a significant amount of time on processing disability claims and working to decrease its backlog of appeals, as the doctor stated, my colleagues and I on the committee have concerns that this has led to an imbalanced amount of attention away from other benefit programs, like the GI Bill education benefit and the employment programs, such as the vocational rehabilitation and employment, which is so very important as well.

I fear that this lack of attention was fully realized last year, again, as the doctor stated, as VBA failed to properly implement sections 107 and 501 of the Forever GI Bill.

This failure by the VA to update their IT systems caused massive delays in processing GI Bill claims for thousands of student veterans last fall, many of whom rely on their payments as the only source of income. And sadly, it was not the first time that the VA has failed to provide GI Bill payments on time. Hopefully, it's going to be the last time.

To help solve this inequity, H.R. 2045, the VET OPP Act, would create a fourth administration at VA called the Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, led by the new VA Under Secretary appointed by the

President of the United States. This new Under Secretary would be tasked with managing all education, home loans, small business certification, transition assistance, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits within the VA.

This bill is a smart, commonsense policy that will allow VA to improve outcomes for our Nation's veterans seeking better economic opportunities.

Finally, the bill will allow Congress to provide significantly better oversight and accountability of those running these programs.

I want to thank the sponsor of H.R. 2045, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, for introducing this legislation this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. AXNE). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, my good friend, MIKE LEVIN, who is doing an outstanding job for co-leading the bill with us.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2045, as amended.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation for really tapping into something that every single Member must face with their veterans, and certainly those who have been out of the military for a period of time, and then all of our new veterans who are coming in from some of the more recent conflicts that we have had, and wars that we have had.

Just about a week or so ago, I was meeting with veterans from a certain battalion that had flown into Houston to share with us their concerns about the state of mind and the increasing amount of suicides among veterans, but, in addition to those conversations and ones that I have had, the idea of a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary of Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs to oversee vocational rehabilitation employment, educational assistance, veterans housing loans, and the verification of small businesses.

□ 1715

I think this is important because veterans want to know that they can fully integrate into society when they return home.

One of the initiatives that I had was to ensure that their service-related professions, whatever their assignments were in the military, would equate in civilian life and that they would be respected for their hierarchy of rank and also responsibility.

Having an office like this one helps those veterans with creative minds who want to start small businesses.



When we had the impact of Hurricane Harvey, one of the hardest hit groups were small businesses. We carved out dollars to help small businesses by grants and not loans because that is the economic engine of this Nation.

With respect to veterans, they are very creative. They see solutions where there are problems. To have an office that would focus on their vocational rehabilitation, employment, and giving them educational assistance, that is also very important.

I have gone to my college campuses and met many, many, many veterans who are using some of the dollars that this House provided for them back during the first time Speaker PELOSI was Speaker, when we voted on major reformation of the process of giving dollars to veterans for their educational assistance, a great bill dealing with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that has helped them a lot.

I see the impact that getting a home has on veterans as well, and I have been involved in projects where organizations are in the business of donating homes to disabled vets. What a difference it makes in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the author of this legislation and the Veterans' Affairs Committee as well because you are now looking holistically at these veterans and giving them a hand up, as they want, and not a hand out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesies.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bill, H.R. 2045, because, as I have said, whether it is a homeless vet, whether it is a vet who has been a veteran for a long period of time or those in the recent conflicts or those coming home today, this is a package that they need.

This is what Members of Congress try to help them with, in their offices. If we knew that we had an office in the Veterans Affairs Department that deals with education, vocational rehabilitation, and small business, and it is a one-stop shop, I think that our veterans will appreciate that very much.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2045.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend, a Congressman, doctor, colonel, Iraq war veteran, and in the previous Congress, chair of the Health Subcommittee on the Veterans Affairs Committee, and currently a member of the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for yielding. I appreciate

his leadership on the Veterans Affairs' Committee for the many years that he has been here and has always been a leader.

As an Iraq war vet and an Army reservist, I know how important it is to help our warfighters succeed in their transition from Active Duty to civilian life. We should prepare our warfighters for success outside the military from the day they take their oath of enlistment to the day they begin their civilian careers. I think we have ignored this for too long.

Leaving the military with a plan and a purpose is key to the long-term well-being of all of our servicemembers.

I know when I came back from Iraq as a reservist, they said, "You have 90 days before you have to go back to work." I said, "I am going next week. What am I going to do, sit around my house and just look at the walls?"

You go from having a job in the military, where you have a purpose and a meaning, and it is important that when you get out that you have the same. That makes the transition and your life that much better.

Economic opportunity and transition programs are critical support for veterans when they complete their service. The current structure of the VA allows economic opportunity and transition programs for our veterans to fall by the wayside. These programs should be treated with the same importance as health, compensation, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act, known as the VET OPP Act, aligns transition, education, and employment programs in a fourth administration within the VA. This ensures that these opportunity-focused programs get the high priority they deserve and the oversight they need to better serve our veterans.

The VET OPP Act would streamline services and help the VA empower veterans and set them on a path to a successful civilian life.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill. When I first got here to Congress in 2009, the Veterans Benefit Administration had 1 million backlogged disability claims. It is hard to focus on something else when you have that much on your plate.

I think we have recognized that over the last several years, and I commend Dr. Wenstrup and others for bringing this up.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, if anyone thinks that business as usual is working at

the VA, I would only ask you to look at the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. My good friend the ranking member knows that there were definite issues with the implementation. It did not go well. We are still months away from implementation, which should have happened last year.

When the IG and others evaluated what went wrong, one thing was very clear: There was no accountable leader.

That is what happens when programs are buried in layers of bureaucracy, and that is why I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2045, as amended, the VET OPP Act, which will establish an accountable leader at VA for all of those programs that we have under the purview of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2045, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXEMPTING CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ECONOMY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1947) to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1947

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

#### SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Any amounts so transferred after September 30, 2016, shall be available without regard to fiscal year limitations, notwithstanding section 1535(d) of title 31."

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.

(a) USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSES.—Section 3034(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking the semicolon and inserting the following: "and is required for the course of education being pursued (including with respect to a dual major,



concentration, or other element of a degree); and”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(b) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**—Section 3313 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING.**—

“(1) **PAYMENTS.**—An individual enrolled in a program of education pursued at a vocational school or institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree) may elect to receive accelerated payments of amounts for tuition and fees determined under subsection (c). The amount of each accelerated payment shall be an amount equal to twice the amount for tuition and fee so determined under such subsection, but the total amount of such payments may not exceed the total amount of tuition and fees for the program of education. The amount of monthly stipends shall be determined in accordance with such subsection (c) and may not be accelerated under this paragraph.

“(2) **EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING.**—An individual may make an election under paragraph (1) only if the individual receives educational counseling under section 3697A(a) of this title.

“(3) **CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.**—The number of months of entitlement charged an individual for accelerated payments made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be determined at the rate of two months for each month in which such an accelerated payment is made.”.

(c) **FLIGHT TRAINING AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.**—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of such section 3313 is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(B) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) Subject to subclause (II), in the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning not described in clause (ii)(II)(bb)”;

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

“(II) In determining the actual net cost for in-State tuition and fees pursuant to subclause (I), the Secretary may not pay for tuition and fees relating to flight training.”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(B) in subclause (II), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(C) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(D) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a non-public or foreign institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) In the case of a program of education described in subclause (II)”;

(E) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) A program of education described in this subclause is any of the following:

“(aa) A program of education pursued at a non-public or foreign institution of higher learning.

“(bb) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect

to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree).”.

(d) **CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARRIED OUT UNDER CONTRACT.**—Section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“(cc) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which the public institution of higher learning enters into a contract or agreement with an entity (other than another public institution of higher learning) to provide such program of education or a portion of such program of education.”.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS.**—In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a course of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsections (c) and (d), respectively, the amendment made by such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CERTAIN HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j)(1) In addition to any other authority under this section, in the case of an individual whose grave is not in a covered cemetery (as that term is defined in subsection (f)(2)) and for whom the Secretary has furnished a headstone or marker under subsection (a) or (d), the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, may replace the headstone or marker to add an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.

“(2) If the spouse or eligible dependent child of an individual referred to in paragraph (1) predeceases the individual, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, include an inscription for the spouse or dependent child on the headstone or marker furnished for the individual under subsection (a) or (d).”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—Subsection (j) of section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an individual who dies on or after October 1, 2019.

#### **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

**PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1947**

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this comprehensive legislation addresses funding for VA research and gives the VA authority to work with grieving families to memorialize their loved ones. It also closes a loophole that has allowed contracted flight schools to charge public schools unlimited tuition and fees to train veterans using the GI Bill.

The first section of the measure addresses VA research. VA's Office of Research and Development improves the lives of veterans, contributes to the national public health, and develops life-saving biomedical breakthroughs that change the world.

In its 90-year history, the VA's medical and prosthetic research has produced some of the world's greatest advances. The VA developed the pacemaker in 1960 and the shingles vaccine in 2005. It created an effective smoking cessation program and increased life expectancy for people with spinal cord injuries.

VA researchers were responsible for beginning the first international antiretroviral drug therapy trial to find the optimal treatment for patients with AIDS, for whom all therapy had failed.

These research efforts usually aren't performed alone. They are often in collaboration with nonprofits, universities, other Federal agencies, and international bodies.

When research is funded from non-VA grants, it is managed by a for-profit corporation, otherwise known as an NPC, established at a VA Medical Center, which allows flexible research funding.

Last year, the VA's Office of General Counsel uncovered an appropriations law limitation that prevents funding transfers to these nonprofit research corporations for longer than 1 fiscal year. This has negatively affected several ongoing multiyear projects across the country.

Dr. ROE's legislation, H.R. 1947, as amended, would provide explicit authority for NPCs to administer research funding without regard to fiscal year limitations.

To ensure this legislation does not raise spending, section 2 addresses a loophole in GI Bill flight school benefits.

This loophole had been exploited by flight schools that had contracted with public institutions of higher learning to offer flight-related degrees. In some cases, bad actors were exploiting GI benefits that resulted in the VA paying out over \$500,000 in tuition and flight payments to one student.

H.R. 1947 fixes this loophole by marrying the cap on tuition at private institutions with a cap on flight school tuition at public institutions.

In addition, to ensure that the fewest possible students are impacted, the legislation also includes a provision to allow flight school students to accelerate their GI Bill benefits. This will allow them to be better used for flight school, which is regularly more expensive but takes fewer months to complete.

Finally, section 3 of H.R. 1947, as amended, authorizes VA to replace a veteran's headstone or marker in a private cemetery so that an inscription may be added to remember a deceased spouse or a child following their deaths.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LAMALFA for introducing the original legislation and Ranking Member ROE for offering the legislation as an amendment during markup.

This bill is another example of our committee working on a bipartisan basis to get it right for all veterans.

This legislation allows veterans to memorialize their loved ones in the way they want and where they want. Every veteran deserves to know that their wish to be remembered in perpetuity alongside spouses and their children will be granted. The same is true for surviving spouses and children who want reassurance that they, too, will be memorialized with their veteran spouse or parent.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for his tireless efforts to care for veterans, and I commend him on this bill. I look forward to joining him in voting "yes" on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

This bill would address a limitation in current law that prevents funding from being transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs nonprofit research and education corporations, or NPCs, for longer than 1 fiscal year.

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NPCs were established by Congress in the late 1980s to provide a flexible fund-

ing mechanism to support research. Collectively, they have contributed more than \$2 billion to VA research projects over the last decade.

However, last year, VA's Office of the General Counsel uncovered a legal limitation that prevents funding from being transferred to the NPCs for longer than 1 fiscal year. This upturned years of practice by the NPCs and threatened a number of ongoing research projects across the country that could benefit veterans and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I have been involved in a number of research projects over the years, and they just don't go for 365 days. Many of them go for years and years. This bill would correct that limitation and preserve the ability of the NPCs to support important multiyear research projects.

Additionally, H.R. 1947, as amended, includes a provision from Representative LAMALFA's bill, H.R. 1126, the Honoring Veterans' Families Act.

Currently, VA is authorized to add a memorial inscription for a veteran's deceased spouse or eligible dependent child to a VA-furnished marker, but only if they are buried in a national cemetery or a State or Tribal veterans cemetery. Unfortunately, VA cannot provide this benefit to veterans and their families if they are buried elsewhere, such as a private or local cemetery. H.R. 1947, as amended, would address this problem by allowing VA to memorialize a veteran's deceased spouse or certain children on the veteran's marker, regardless of where they choose to be laid to rest.

The cost of this bill will be paid for by closing a loophole in GI Bill rules related to flight schools by capping the total tuition and fees that can be used at a public school for flight training at the current private school cap of \$23,671 per year. The bill would authorize a 2-year grandfather clause so that no current students are impacted by this change.

It also includes provisions that would make it easier for students to attend flight training by removing the prohibition against GI Bill funds paying for a private pilot's license and giving students the option to accelerate their GI Bill benefits to pay for the increased cost associated with flight training.

These changes to flight training for the GI Bill have had wide bipartisan and veteran service organization support in the past, and I am pleased that they are included in this bill.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1947, as amended.

I thank the chairman for his kind comments and support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to

the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend and an author of one part of this bill.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for including my legislation, H.R. 1126, within H.R. 1947. It is greatly appreciated. This is an oversight that was pointed out by northern California veterans to me a while back, the choice of being able to have a family member, a spouse, inscribed on a grave marker, simply the difference being that it is in a Federal cemetery or one that is private. That is really the bottom line on this.

This bill changes that oversight so that the choice can be at any recognized cemetery. That is simply what we are after: to have our veterans who have served us honorably know that, when they are at their final resting place, that this oversight cannot happen for their family member that they held so dear to share that gravestone with them.

So, whether it is a private cemetery or a VA, or whatever other type you might have as your choice, veterans need to have this choice as well.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for including this so we can take care of this oversight quickly and have our veterans have the choices that they feel they deserve and, indeed, do deserve. I appreciate it.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my good friend and Western Caucus chair.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise not against this bill, but I have concerns about a provision capping the veterans' training benefits. This severely undermines the important goal of helping our Nation's veterans enter a field where they are desperately needed.

H.R. 1947 does have needed improvements for structural veteran flight training benefits. This includes an accelerated payment provision to provide greater flexibility and a more efficient funding mechanism to help veterans complete their flight training.

The bill also provides coverage for obtaining a private pilot's license when it is incorporated into the requirements of a professional flight training program.

Additionally, this action provides flexibility to public schools, allowing them to contract for flight training, which, in turn, makes aviation training more available to interested veterans.

There is improved fiscal responsibility by the government, and there is strong support for tightening the existing regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs to curb abuses by a minority of flight schools affiliated with collegian degree programs. However, the bill caps payments for flight

training programs, which unfairly impacts the ability of veterans to pursue well-paying jobs in the civilian aviation sector.

Capping funds available for flight training degree programs virtually guarantees that veterans seeking to use their GI Bill benefits to enter the aviation industry will have insufficient funds to achieve their goals. They will either abandon their pursuit or be burdened with significant personal debt through either expenditure of personal funds or taking on severe student loans. This will harm veterans and limit their employment opportunities in the aviation industry.

It is unfair and discriminatory to single out these funding caps for veterans seeking employment in aviation. These caps deprive them of the ability to pursue collegian flight training, a common path to a career as a commercial pilot.

I hope this provision can be addressed prior to finding its way to the President. These jobs in aviation are in high demand, and our veterans are some of the most deserving and most needed.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield back, I do want to express my disappointment that H.R. 2196 is not on the floor for consideration this afternoon. This bill, introduced by my friend and outstanding new member of our committee, Congressman BARR from Kentucky, would clarify the eligibility of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program. This scholarship, which was enacted as part of the Forever GI Bill, authorizes extra GI Bill funding to help student veterans complete their undergraduate degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, fields.

Madam Speaker, we all know that there is a need to fill vacancies for high-paying jobs in the STEM fields. The Smithsonian Science Education Center found STEM-related jobs grew at three times the rate of non-STEM jobs between 2000 and 2010. By 2018, they projected that 2.4 million STEM jobs would go unfilled.

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program is critical to ensure that veterans are the ones who fill these vacancies. However, the way the original law was drafted, it would unintentionally prevent most students from using this scholarship in all but a few STEM programs.

With the scholarship going live on August 1, 2019, I am grateful to Mr. BARR for quickly stepping up to the plate to offer this bill to ensure students are eligible for it.

We all know that the Senate generally takes longer to review legislation than the House. Let me repeat that. We all know that the Senate generally takes a lot longer to review legis-

lation than the House does. That is why, with the August 1 deadline approaching quickly, I was hopeful we could consider this legislation today. The bill has gone through full regular order, is supported by VA and veterans service organizations, and has no cost.

I would ask the chairman if he would please work with the majority leader to schedule this bill for consideration immediately after the Memorial Day district work period.

Before I yield back, next Monday is Memorial Day. For me, personally, I want to thank all of the members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the chairman and others, as you have seen today, for the work they have done in a bipartisan way to help our Nation's heroes.

As I said, for me, personally, as a veteran, this is a very difficult day because it is a day that we mourn the loss of veterans who served on Active Duty and paid the ultimate price. I want to just mention a few names of people.

First, Sergeant Thomas E. Thayer, a tremendous man whom I knew as a young boy growing up. He was my Scout master. He was in the 101st Airborne and was killed in Vietnam, receiving the Silver Star in 1965.

Johnny Parham, who was also an Eagle Scout, as I am. Johnny and I ran on the 2-mile relay team together in high school. I have to say, we were pretty good. Johnny died in 1969 in Vietnam and was unable to have the wonderful life that I have had, to be able to raise a family, have children and grandchildren, because of service to our Nation.

Bob Perry, a young man whom I went to elementary school with all the way through high school. I found out at my high school reunion many years later that Bob also died in Vietnam.

We just heard today, Chief Petty Officer Bill Mulder, a highly decorated Navy SEAL who protected this Nation, giving up his life because of, really, the invisible wounds of war.

I just want to thank all of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1947.

Before I close, let me say that I appreciate the kind words of the ranking member, Dr. ROE of Tennessee, and I associate myself with his eloquent tributes to his classmates and the people who did not get to live the full lives that he, himself, has been able to live.

I, myself, have also known people who have served our country and who have also paid the ultimate price. I certainly do share his sentiments as we enter this Memorial Day weekend, as all Americans reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of all the people buried in our

national cemeteries and cemeteries that aren't national cemeteries that are marked by VA grave markers.

It is always a poignant moment to walk through my national cemetery and to watch the Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts planting American flags on each and every grave and to see it all happen within 20 minutes because there are so many Americans who want to come to my cemetery to make sure that every grave is honored.

To my colleague from Tennessee, I wish him a pleasant Memorial Day weekend, but, also, to all Americans, let us reflect on what Memorial Day weekend does mean to our Nation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

#### HARRISON TOWNSHIP

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Harrison Township, New Jersey, recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. This town has been a staple of south Jersey for many years.

Harrison Township was built on farming, as its local economy and its access to Philadelphia and New York continued its prosperity.

After the railroad opened in 1889, the station became a major shipping point. Postwar Harrison Township saw an era of change and growth with new regional highway construction that made the area much more accessible to all.

Harrison Township in the 21st century continues to grow with staples like wineries, antique stores, continued agriculture, and farming.

But what is most noticeable about Harrison Township is their residents, their people, those who are new, and those who have been here for generations, like Vince Gangemi, Sr., who for so many years has given back to their wonderful town. They love their town.

South Jersey is proud to consider this historical place a part of our community.

## 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, this country was built by great leaders on the bedrock of even greater ideals. The idea that all are created equal and endowed with those certain inalienable rights.

The idea that democracy was instituted not to bestow rights given to us by God, but to safeguard them from tyranny. The conviction that a government's power to protect our rights comes solely by consent of the governed. But as we are a country of imperfect leaders, we often fall far short of these perfect ideals.

And 100 years ago today, great women brought this country into a new age; an age where women are endowed with that inalienable right to vote; an age where women can safeguard their rights at the ballot box; an age where the power of our democracy comes from the consent of all the governed.

And at a time when a woman serves as Speaker of the House and there are more Congresswomen with us today than at any other point in our history.

We are in this age because of great women. And I am honored to share this House with so many of you.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UCLA

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA's excellence is clear. With 13 Nobel laureates, 13 MacArthur Fellows, 9 National Medal of Science winners, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, a Fields Medal, an A.M. Turing Award, UCLA's academic credentials are rivaled by few.

And the UCLA Bruins have enjoyed 117 NCAA team championships and 261 Olympic medals over their 100-year history.

Alumni have gone on to make incredible strides in fields like rocket science, film, and politics. It has been an incredible century for UCLA.

In honor of UCLA's centennial, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Chancellor Block, UC President Janet Napolitano, and UCLA students, faculty, and alumni.

I also want to recognize all the people in UCLA's history that ensured the university could light the way for the next 100 years to come. Go Bruins.

## CELEBRATING 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with enthusiasm and gratitude that exactly 100 years to the day this very body passed the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women the right to vote.

This decision was a critical step forward, a major development in a representative government to empower millions of Americans and allow them access to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

The passage of the 19th Amendment was an important turning point, and the culmination of decades of fervent activism by members of the women's suffrage movement and their allies. Their vision and their tenacity paved the way for generations of leaders who would follow.

And in their honor, I am proud to be the co-lead of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, along with my friend and colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY from New York, to give these pioneers proper recognition by constructing a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged today to be a Member of this House at such a monumental time where there are more women serving in the House of Representatives than ever before. I am proud to serve with them and to honor this centennial anniversary by their side.

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today we come together to celebrate 100 years since the United States House passed the 19th Amendment prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote on the basis of sex.

It was a milestone in the evolution of women's suffrage, but the hard work of making sure that all women could vote continued long after its passage.

Women still had to fight to build a system where Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and all women of color could not only register to vote but could actually cast their ballot.

In 1924, when Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship, we took a big step toward Native American women's suffrage. And in 1964 when the Voting Rights Act was passed, we took another step in breaking down obstacles that prevented Black women and other women of color from voting.

The history of women's suffrage, like the history of our Nation, is complex, but it is a history that we must acknowledge and that we absolutely need to reckon with, because we know that people all over this country today still face voter suppression.

So let's take this opportunity to celebrate this historic day but let us also recognize the full movement for women's suffrage has continued long after, and let's recommit to making sure that every citizen in this country can exercise their constitutional right to vote and participate in our democracy.

## CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Women's right to vote was won by the brave work of suffragettes, many of whom were from North Carolina.

In 1917, the National American Women Suffrage Association held a 4-day suffrage school in Raleigh to advance the movement in our State. Instructor Halsey Wilson said, "We have a government of men, by men, and for the people, instead of a realization of the hopes of Abraham Lincoln of a government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Today, I am grateful to be serving among the largest group of women ever elected in this body. When the 19th Amendment was ratified, 10 million women joined the electorate, but the suffragettes' work also laid the foundation for women in public offices and the House of Representatives we have today.

## SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today marks 100 years exactly since the U.S. House of Representatives approved the 19th Amendment and moved our Nation one step closer to full voting rights for women.

I am so proud that the great State of Michigan was among the first to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I was proud to join my colleagues today to pass a bipartisan resolution to commemorate and celebrate the amendment.

I rise now to honor all the suffragettes whose names we know and all those we don't, who put themselves in danger to help make a more perfect union. But I also rise to honor those who follow in their footsteps, like my incredible classmates in the 116th Congress.

Just like the suffragettes helped usher our Nation forward, they, too, have opened doors that young women like my own daughter, Molly, may walk through some day.

It is an honor to fight alongside them today and every day.

### CONGRATULATING DR. DEBBIE LUPEIKA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great woman and a doctor who is from my district in northern California, who earned an incredible honor over the weekend.

Dr. Debbie Lupeika has been named as the 2019 National Clinician of the year by the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved.

She teaches residents at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California, and Shasta Community Health Center, which serves mostly underserved or uninsured patients.

Dr. Lupeika has helped treat many families that were displaced from their homes in Shasta County by the Carr fire last year—everyone from children to adults.

In rural communities like ours, it is even more important to have great doctors who truly care about their patients and their craft when also faced with these rural issues that are so difficult for retaining doctors in rural areas. Dr. Debbie Lupeika fully embodies that in every way.

Madam Speaker, I thank her for her commitment to improving healthcare in our rural communities, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

### THE CENTENNIAL OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing in the House giving women the right to vote.

Today, along with my yellow rose, I stand here wearing a purple and a black ribbon honoring the history of African American women who are unsung heroes, like Sojourner Truth, and Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell.

These women fought tirelessly so all women would have the right to vote. Although, even after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, many Black women and Native American women were still denied their voting rights.

Madam Speaker, let us not forget the sacrifices and the achievements of Black women and all women of color who continue to fight for women's right to vote, many of whose names we may never know, but without whom many of us would not be here today.

As we celebrate this important milestone with this historic number of women and women of color in Congress, let us remember the words of suffragette Mary Church Terrell. She said: "And so, lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go."

[From ACLU, May 18, 2019]

### CELEBRATE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, BUT DON'T WHITEWASH THE MOVEMENT'S RACISM

My 94-year-old great-aunt, Paralee Wilmer—we call her Aunt Lee—voted for the first time after moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1944. Born to no-nonsense, small farmers in Millers Ferry, Alabama, and the youngest daughter of 12 children, Aunt Lee was one among many African Americans who moved from the South to the North in search of better job opportunities and greater freedoms during the The Great Migration. These freedoms included the right to vote without intimidation or any other hindrance.

Aunt Lee's memory is a bit cloudy regarding whether the first time she cast her ballot was in an election for local politicians or a presidential race, but one thing she knows for sure is her pastor at the time inspired her to exercise her constitutional rights and fulfill her civic duties. He said, "When it's time to vote, make sure you vote. When it's time to do grand jury, make sure you go."

At age 20, Aunt Lee understood the magnitude of her pastor's advice, given the disenfranchisement of Black folks that she witnessed growing up in Millers Ferry—including poll taxes, literacy tests, and outright violence and intimidation that prevented Black people from voting. To be a Black citizen in America but denied full citizenship rights epitomizes the hypocrisy of American democracy. This is a sad truth that I repeat like a blues refrain to my students.

This summer—as the nation celebrates the 170th anniversary of the first major convention for women's rights at Seneca Falls and the 98th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote—how do we reconcile widespread narratives of a triumphant, steady march towards women's enfranchisement with the more complicated and painful reality of my great-aunt's lived experience as a young, Black woman in Jim Crow America? One word: intersectionality.

Legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw argues that racism and sexism intersect in a manner that compounds Black women's oppression. Although the above historical events occurred long before Crenshaw articulated intersectionality, this insightful theory should be applied to all historical narratives that do not fully engage with the lived experiences of African-American women.

What do we notice when we take an intersectional view of the events that transpired at Seneca Falls? How does our understanding of the history of all women's political empowerment in the United States change?

When suffragists gathered in Seneca Falls, New York, in July 1848, they advocated for the right of white women to vote. The participants were middle and upper-class white women, a cadre of white men supporters and one African-American male—Frederick Douglass. The esteemed abolitionist had forged a strong working relationship with fellow abolitionists and white women suffragists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. No Black women attended the convention. None were invited.

Although women of color were profoundly absent at Seneca Falls, a greater degree of cultural inclusion was on the horizon. In May 1851, African-American abolitionist Sojourner Truth spoke at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio. During her famous speech on the abolition of slavery and the promotion of women's rights, Truth allegedly bared her breast and proclaimed, "Ain't I a woman?"

It was a melodramatic act and statement, but as historian Nell Painter argues, it never happened. Instead, it was a quaint fiction

crafted by convention organizer Frances Dana Gage and other white feminists who depicted Truth to white audiences as a genuine albeit primitive ally in the fight for women's rights. Thus, the 1851 convention marked a modicum of progress, but this progress is tainted by white suffragists' attempts to control Truth's voice.

By the turn of the 20th century, Black suffragists such as Mary Church Terrell represented intersectional feminism at its best. Born to former slaves in Memphis, Tennessee, Terrell earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oberlin College and served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. In February 1898, Terrell spoke at the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in Washington, D.C.

Her speech forced powerful white women attendees to reflect on the compounding oppressions and systemic violence that Black women endured during slavery. She ended on a more optimistic note—praising the sheer grit and intellect of freed women. Terrell's rhetorical style echoed the American ethos of self-made men and women, but she oversimplified the historical reality that the paths to racial and gender equality are long, jagged, and still unwinding.

The history of women's suffrage in America is not nice or neat, because the impact of white supremacy is broad and human nature is messy. Furthermore, a nation built on stolen land from Native Americans and stolen labor from African slaves is flawed from the start. We must constantly acknowledge this truth and engage in an intersectional celebration of women's rights activists and landmark events.

In addition to celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment, let's celebrate the upcoming birthday of African-American suffragist Mary Church Terrell, who would be 155 on September 23. Let's celebrate the lives and legacies of the true Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and suffragist Harriet Tubman, and Shirley Chisholm—the first Black woman elected to Congress and to seriously run for president.

Let us celebrate and support current-day Black Lives Matter founders and organizers Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, three queer Black women committed to "placing those at the margins closer to the center" of political leadership. Last but not least, let's celebrate the lives of everyday people like my Aunt Lee—a Black woman born and raised in Jim Crow Alabama who sought out a better life in Ohio and has religiously exercised her right to vote for the past 74 years. Let us celebrate these Black women while recognizing that the struggle to vote without obstacles continues.

### NEW LOCK AT THE SOO LOCKS

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, the Appropriations Committee has now passed legislation with \$75.3 million in funding for the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks.

This is the first time in decades the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks is being funded in legislation.

I have been pushing for this funding with my work on the Appropriations Committee, and I am grateful for the support of our colleagues.

Right now, the lock is 50 years old, and it has survived harsh winters through extraordinary maintenance.

However, if it were to fail for an extended period, it would create a cascading problem for the economy and national security, because iron ore that goes through the locks would have no way to get from Lake Superior to factories across the country.

Also, this is an issue that Democrats, Republicans, and President Trump all agree on.

When President Trump came to Michigan last year, I was joined by Congressman BERGMAN and Congressman MITCHELL. We told the President about the Soo Locks, and he pledged his support. That was backed up in March when the Army Corps of Engineers requested \$75.3 million in its budget for next year.

I appreciate and want to thank President Trump for his leadership on this. That request is funded in legislation now, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep this construction moving forward in the years to come.

□ 1800

#### CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment 100 years ago today.

It is remarkable to imagine that the fundamental right to vote was only granted to women this recently. If only the suffragettes who sacrificed so much for so long could see the results of their movement, that I would be serving in Congress shoulder to shoulder with 131 women, the most in our Nation's history.

We know that better decisions are made when more women are at the table, from the boardroom to the floor of this historic Chamber.

Women have been blazing the path of social progress in the United States for centuries, marching for civil rights, striking for workers' rights, organizing against gun violence, and speaking out on sexual harassment. Today, we continue to reshape our country, writing new history in the Halls of Congress.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, women like Susan B. Anthony, Shirley Chisholm, Edith Nourse Rogers, and many more, and make sure we do our part to pave the new path for women to follow after us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud and honored to take part in celebrating the anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

#### CELEBRATING PATRIOTISM OF AMERICAN WOMEN EARNING RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, almost from the day that I have been elected to Congress, I have looked forward to the opportunity to honor my wife's great-grandmother.

She was able to vote in the 1920 election. Prior to that election, in Boston, they distributed sample ballots. This document that I have with me today has been in my wife's family for almost 100 years. On the back of the document, Miss Abby Mayhew Cushing wrote this note: "November 2, 1920. Cast my first vote for President of these United States."

You can feel the pride and the patriotism in those words that she experienced for the first time. Abby Mayhew Cushing was 67 years old.

With all due respect to my Democrat colleagues, she wrote: "Voted straight Republican ticket. Smashing victory for Harding and Coolidge." Then she added this: "President Harding died very suddenly August 2, 1923, in California. Burial in Marion, Ohio, Friday, August 10."

This is, for the Cushing family, a historic document that celebrates the patriotism of American women earning the right to vote.

#### NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, and I do so with the love of my country within my heart, and I do so this evening because I believe that no one is above the law. No one.

We find this to be the case in our great country: If you are a person who exceeds the speed limit, you are breaking the law. If you are caught exceeding the speed limit, there is a price to pay. No one is above the law.

If you are a person who happens to, in the State of Texas, decide that you are going to go through the supermarket and pick and choose certain things that you would like to sample, at some point, if you partake of more than is reasonable, you will be charged with grazing. It is a crime in the State of Texas to graze, to take more than what is reasonable in having a sample of a grape. No one is above the law. People are prosecuted in the State of Texas for grazing.

In the State of Texas, a good many persons have been prosecuted for not causing their children to go to school. Thwarting public attendance in school was a law in the State of Texas. People paid fines for not having their children in school.

The list of laws is too long to ever mention in a statement such as this, but the point is, no one is above the law. There are laws that deal with persons who commit felonies and persons who commit misdemeanors. When you break these laws, you are prosecuted.

You are not allowed to break the law with impunity, and you are not allowed to do it with immunity. No one is above the law.

I believe that this is a part of the very hallmark of our criminal justice system in this great country. We believe that no one is above the law and that no one is beneath the law, meaning that the law should apply equally to all. Every person ought to be treated the same when it comes to the very bedrock principle of whether or not someone is above the law. No one is in this country.

However, we find ourselves with a unique circumstance now. We have the highest office holder in the executive branch, the chief executive officer, if you will, who has refused to cooperate with lawful investigations of the Congress.

He refused to cooperate in this sense. He has said to witnesses they should not appear and give testimony in a lawful investigation. He indicated that subpoenas will not be answered. They were issued pursuant to lawful investigations.

No one is above the law. If you are not above the law, then if you are called upon to testify, you must testify. If you have some document within your possession and there has been a request for it by way of a subpoena, then you have to produce it. No one is above the law.

Well, we currently have a circumstance where the chief executive officer is at odds with the legislative branch. This places the legislative and the executive at odds with each other. They are in a stalemate, if you will.

When this occurs, you have one branch of government refusing to cooperate with lawful requests of another branch, the executive refusing the request of the legislative, then you have a standoff, as I indicated. No one is above the law.

This, in my opinion, creates a constitutional crisis. Now, there are people who would differ with me. But remember this: What they are expressing is what I am expressing, an opinion. This is my opinion. They have their opinion. There is no hard and fast definition for a constitutional crisis.

There are some who would contend that to have a constitutional crisis in this area, the subpoenas that have been issued would have to go to court. They would have to be litigated. At some point, a court might say to the executive branch of the government that it must obey the subpoena issued by Congress, the lawful subpoena.

If the executive officer declines to obey the subpoena, it would be concluded that you have a constitutional crisis because the chief executive officer is not only disobeying Congress, he is disobeying a third branch of the government, the judicial branch, the judiciary. So you would then have a constitutional crisis.

I differ. It is my opinion that you have a constitutional crisis when the



chief executive officer declines and refuses to obey a lawful request from the legislative branch. I think that when you get to the point that the President of the United States, or the chief executive officer, refuses an order from the court, you have a constitutional crisis, but you also have a collapse.

That is when you have gone beyond a constitutional crisis. It is a collapse. The crisis leads up to that point. Once this happens and the President refuses to obey the judiciary as well as the legislative, you have a collapse.

Right now, we are in a constitutional crisis. In this constitutional crisis, we have a circumstance that has developed that we cannot tolerate. You see, it is the legislative branch that has the duty to provide the check on the executive branch such that we maintain the balance of power. When the legislative branch seeks to check the executive branch and it absolutely refuses to cooperate, when this occurs, the system of checks and balances is being ignored.

The system of checks and balances was put in place by the Framers of the Constitution to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government. To prevent the executive branch from having a concentration of power, the legislative branch was given this ability to check it.

When the legislative branch cannot get cooperation, the ultimate check that it has is impeachment. The legislative branch prevents the concentration of power by saying to the chief executive officer: Mr. Chief Executive Officer, you are out of balance. You are assuming more authority than the Constitution accords you. Because you cannot do this, we, the Members of the legislative branch, can bring you before the bar of justice. We can call on you to answer for your failure to honor lawful investigative requests of the legislative branch. So we bring you before the bar of justice, and that is called impeachment.

But it is important to remember that the Framers of the Constitution put the system of checks and balances in place to prevent a concentration of power. Why would we want to prevent a concentration of power? Because if the chief executive officer, the President, is allowed to have power concentrated beyond what the Constitution accords, meaning there are no guardrails, the President can do whatever he chooses.

The President then becomes an officer who is and can be above the law. He is above the law in this country. No person is above the law. The checks and balances are in place to prevent the President from being above the law.

If we don't enforce this system of checks and balances, we then allow the concentration of power, and we no longer have the form of government that the Framers intended and that we have enjoyed for these many years.

We would have a monarchy. We would have a monarchy. A monarch has

the power to do whatever he chooses. The monarch is the law.

We never intended in this country for the chief executive officer, the President, to be the law. We intended for the President to enforce the law by and through the various agencies that are under his domain, if you will, but not to be the law itself, not to decide what the law is on any given day, not to decide that he will obey the law when he chooses. No one is above the law.

The Mueller report is a good indication of how the law is viewed. The Mueller report indicates that there are many instances where, but for a rule that the Justice Department adheres to, the President would be indicted—but for this rule.

You won't find the words stated exactly as I have stated them, but that is the essence of what is stated in the Mueller report as it relates to obstruction of justice. Mr. Mueller was assigned the responsibility of looking into certain aspects of the campaign that the President participated in before being elected and to ascertain whether or not there was some collusion, obstruction of justice, if you will.

□ 1815

The Mueller conclusion is that the President is not exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice and that the President but for these rules that they have, this rule that says you don't indict a sitting President, the President would likely be indicted. I say, likely be, because Mr. Mueller didn't say he would be, but he did say that the President wasn't exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice.

So the President is not above the law, and if the Justice Department is not going to prosecute, then where is the bar of justice?

It is here. It is right here in this room; this very august body that we call the Congress of the United States of America. We then have the responsibility. If the Justice Department is not going to pursue the President, then it is left to the Congress. This is the last alternative for ensuring that the checks and balances are maintained and that the President is not above the law.

Who agrees with the Mueller Report as I have expressed it?

Some 800 former prosecutors have indicated that if this were any other person who violated the law as they see it in the Mueller Report, that this person would be prosecuted. They go on to say that it is critical that obstruction of justice be prosecuted because if you do not, then what you are sending is a message to people that they can interfere with lawful investigations. They don't say it in those exact words, but that is the import of the message that they do share with us, some 800 prosecutors, Federal prosecutors, persons who understand this law.

Many of them have said that there is more than enough evidence here to

prosecute anyone other than the President. But they have been respectful, and they understand that there is a rule in the Justice Department—the Office of Legal Counsel has promulgated it—that indicates that a sitting President won't be prosecuted.

If the sitting President is not going to be prosecuted, then these 800 lawyers are saying to us that the bar of justice has to be the place where the President will be brought, and that bar of justice is here in the House of Representatives. No one is above the law.

We now recognize that we are some 34 days since the Mueller Report was made public. This is the number of days that the Trump administration has been above the law, some 34 days.

Why?

Because we have one official in the administration who has refused to honor a lawful request by the Ways and Means Committee to produce certain records, certain records belonging to the President, tax records—refused to produce those records in contravention of the law. Another official, the person who heads the Justice Department, is declining to respond to requests of the Judiciary Committee.

No one is above the law. So we now have not only the President refusing, but the persons who are part of the administration are refusing. Some 34 days now I would say the administration itself has been above the law.

These are the days since the Mueller Report has been released to the public, the number of days the Trump administration has been above the law.

I love my country. I never came to Congress to give the speech I am giving tonight. I didn't come to Congress to take on the most powerful person on the planet Earth. I find myself standing here because I believe that you cannot see that this moral imperative exists to make sure that the law is followed and treated the same as it relates to all people and then ignore it. I just don't see how you can do it. I cannot. I refuse to ignore the fact that the President has obstructed justice.

The President is not above the law. No one is. I will not allow political expediency, this notion that rather than deal with this now, let's just wait and let the next election determine the fate of a person who has breached the law in the highest office of the land, I might add. I refuse to accept it. I just cannot.

The President is not above the law. I didn't come to the Congress to say this, but I love my country, and I see what this is doing to the country, when we have the chief executive officer saying to law enforcement officers—and he did say what I am about to tell you—that you don't have to be nice when you arrest people.

What message are you sending to them in terms of what their behavior should be when they take people into their care, custody, and control?

You are saying to them you can break the law.

What kind of message do you send when you are at a campaign rally and

you say to people: Don't worry about how you treat them; if they arrest you, I will take care of it?

That wasn't the exact language, but that was the message. This is the chief executive officer. This is the person who is the standard-bearer for the United States of America—the standard-bearer, the person who carries the torch of freedom for the United States of America.

What are you saying when you say that you are a person who would support the breaking of the law and then you would support defending the person who breaks the law?

You are saying you are above the law and you believe it, and you are saying you are willing to take care of those who would break the law as well.

We have seen circumstances in this country that I never thought we would see: a President sending messages and signals indicating that if you side with me, I have the magic wand. If you side with me, I have the power to erase your offenses, your crimes. It is not really erasing, but I am communicating that it is a pardon. The President has this power, and he sends signals: break the law, but worry not, I have your back.

Is this what we expect from the highest office in the land in the greatest country in the world?

Are we going to allow ourselves to be brought into this complicity that we see so many people succumbing to?

I don't think so. I will not. We cannot allow ourselves to become complicit. We cannot allow ourselves to become a party to what is going on here. The mere fact that we stand silent on it, as Dr. King put it: at some point, silence in and of itself becomes betrayal.

The silence is betraying our country, it is betraying the Constitution, and it is betraying the Republic. The silence—no one is above the law.

When will we cease to be silent on the greatest issue confronting us at this time?

The Republic is at stake. It is not about Republicans, it is about the Republic and whether we will maintain it. It is not about Democrats, it is about our democracy. This is bigger than all of us. It is bigger. It is bigger than the President. It is about the country we love and whether we are going to allow one person to destroy the concept of no one being above the law.

It is bigger than we are, and the truth is it has now become an issue that is about Congress. This issue is now about Congress. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America is going to fulfill its responsibility. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America will see and say—see that the President is obstructing and say that the President is obstructing.

I marvel at the number of Members of Congress who have said that the President is obstructing justice, who have said that the President has com-

mitted impeachable offenses, impeachable acts, but notwithstanding having said it will not say that the President ought to be impeached. There are some who say that he should be impeached as a matter of fact and still won't move to impeach him.

The President is not above the law. We are the law, the Members of Congress, 435 of us. We have been given an awesome responsibility. It is awesome. I don't take it lightly. It is not something that I think everybody should have the responsibility accorded to them because there are a good many people who don't believe that you should prosecute a President. They think that if the President commits a crime, well, that is the President. I am not one of them.

They think that you have to commit a crime, by the way, before you can be impeached, a good many people. I am not one of them. The President doesn't have to commit a crime to be impeached. It is the harm that he causes society that the Framers of the Constitution addressed in Federalist 65, the words of Madison, Jay, and Hamilton.

The President is not above the law. We in this body are now the issue. The issue is: Will Congress do what the Constitution has given us as the means by which we can deal with a chief executive officer who is breaking the law, who sees himself, apparently by virtue of his behavior, as being above the law?

This is what Congress has to look into. This is what Congress has to bring before the bar of justice, this whole notion that the President is not above the law.

So let's just take a moment now and talk about the process of impeachment because a good many people don't understand. Impeachment does not mean that a President is removed from office. Impeachment is sort of like an indictment. It is not the same but very much similar to an indictment. The Members of the House of Representatives serve as a body very similar to a grand jury. It is not the same, but it is similar to a grand jury. The Members of the House of Representatives determine whether or not a President should be impeached. They do so with a vote, a majority of the House voting to impeach, and the President is impeached.

The President doesn't have to commit a crime to be impeached. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868. Article 10 of the articles of impeachment against him for a high misdemeanor that was not a crime—a misdemeanor is a misdeed, aside from being a minor criminal offense it is also a misdeed. He was impeached for this misdeed, and we here in this body can impeach any President for misdeeds.

So if the body impeaches, it doesn't mean that the President is removed from office. It simply means that the President must now go to trial in the Senate. There is no requirement in the Constitution for the House to have to investigate the Mueller Report. The

Mueller Report has been shared with us. There is enough evidence in that report to impeach the President. The Mueller Report has evidence shared by virtue of talking to witnesses who gave their testimony under the penalty of perjury. We can use that as the reason—that report—to send this to the Senate where a trial will take place.

Remember, impeachment is sort of like an indictment—not the same but similar. It goes to the Senate. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would preside over that trial—the Chief Justice.

In so doing, the House will have persons called managers. These managers would act as prosecutors. They would bring evidence before the Senate for the Senate to act upon. The Senate acts upon the evidence. The Chief Justice is there to make sure certain rules are followed. For example, if the House prosecutors, the managers, if they would like to call a witness, the Chief Justice will then be there to assist the process to get that witness before the Senate.

There is a trial. Witnesses are called. Subpoenas can be issued, and you don't have to meander through some lower courts, inferior courts, because all courts, when it comes to the impeachment of the President, are inferior to the Senate when it sits in trial of the President.

□ 1830

They are all inferior, all of the courts.

So you have the Chief Justice there to make his ruling. All of this is done before the public. There will be a trial. All of these subpoenas that are not being honored, all of the witnesses that are refusing to testify, take them before the Senate. Call them; have them sworn; have them give their testimony; and let the world hear and see.

There is a desire to have a trial before the trial in the House, to have a trial in the sense that witnesses come and appear and are a part of an investigation. That is not, in fact, the kind of trial that you think of when you think of the word "trial," but in a sense, we are having the witnesses come in and give their testimony. There is a desire to do this.

To be very honest with you, I am not antithetical to the idea, but I do understand that, if the witnesses are not coming, if the subpoenas are not being honored, then the option left to us is to impeach and have that trial in the Senate, where they will have to come. Subpoenas will have to be honored. That is the means by which we maintain the system of checks and balances when the President refuses to perform as expected under the Constitution—as a matter of fact, as required under the Constitution.

So, given that the President is not following the norms and not following the law and eventually we could take this through the inferior courts—they are inferior to the Senate when it sits

in trial of the President, because that is the ultimate court related to issues related to the President.

These things can meander through the inferior courts. They are not inferior in the sense that they are less than efficient and effective at what they do; they are just inferior to this impeachment trial when the President has been impeached, the trial to determine whether or not he should be removed from office. Impeachment doesn't remove the President from office.

But these subpoenas and all of these issues can go through these courts. No one knows how long it will take, but everybody prognosticates, people who know and who are supposed to know, that it can take months. It can take months, which means that we will, at some point, engage in paralysis analysis.

Dr. King called it the paralysis of analysis, but analysis paralysis, meaning this: We will have done all that we can in these courts to try to bring the President to justice, get the witnesses necessary to bring the President to justice because he has committed these impeachable acts, and at some point, you will get so close to an election that someone will say: Well, let's not do this. Let's just wait until the next election.

We will have been paralyzed going through the courts such that we won't get to the issues in time, and, as a matter of fact, it could be after the next election before some of the courts will rule. We just don't know. But those who prognosticate say that it will be months.

One would think that maybe there can be an expedited process, but the courts will determine whether this will be the case.

So, when you have all of this and you are confronting all of these things, you have to ask yourself: Will the House of Representatives do its job?

And for those who are saying, well, you have to have bipartisan support, I would love to see bipartisan support, but there is no requirement for it in the Constitution.

As a matter of fact, Jay, Hamilton, Madison, they prognosticated that you would not have unanimity. You won't have the bipartisanship that you are looking for. They said it would be a time of strife. They indicated that people would separate along party lines.

Read Federalist 65, not a long read. Read it. You will see. They prognosticated that there would be divisions. So to say you have got to have the Republican Party on board before the Democratic Party can do its job is incorrect—not required.

And, by the way, history is not going to be kind. It is not going to be kind. History is not going to be kind to us. History is going to cause a lot of reputations to be soiled. Those who look through the vista of time are not going to side with us the way we have friendships and relationships siding with us now.

History is not going to be kind to Democrats or Republicans. History is going to present us as people who saw an injustice in the highest office of the land and refused to do our jobs.

It won't be kind to us. Reputations are going to be tarnished. People who will be saluted and proclaimed heroes today who were just waiting to do the right thing at the right time, history is not going to be kind to them. There are too many things on record that they have already said. And there are too many people who will go back through these records, videos of what they have said.

They can walk it back now, and they can have friendships now that will be of assistance to them, but history is not going to be kind to them.

But there is a means by which we can bring ourselves back in proper alignment with the Constitution. It is called impeachment. This is what we can do, and it is never too late to get on the right side of history.

There are many people in this House who are on the wrong side of history, wrong side of history. The right side of politics, as they see it. I would rather be on the right side of history and the wrong side of politics.

So these persons who are now on the wrong side of history, my hope is that they will do as I see many of my colleagues doing now, and they are coming forward and they are acknowledging that enough is enough. Impeachment is a solution that has to be pursued.

The question no longer is who is going to be the first to engage in this notion that we have to bring the President before the bar of justice in the House of Representatives. This is not the question.

The question now is who will be the last person to say we must do it, because there seems to be a momentum building. There seems to be a momentum building that is going to cause some people who would have made history to be made by history.

History can make people, and people can make history. There are some people who are going to be proclaimed by our contemporaries now as having made history, but the truth is that history will make them. History will make them do what they should do and should have done.

They are going to have to face history. Maybe not right away, but, I assure you, time always tells. The truth is known, and history always judges.

We are going to be judged, my friends. We all are. We are going to be judged. So why don't we just get on the right side of history now and salvage some of the reputation that we have?

They don't have to lose their entire reputation. They don't have to become adamant about this. They have made their point. Let it go. Get on the right side of history. We know where this is going. It is just a matter of time.

There will be additional votes on impeachment right here on this floor of

the House of Representatives. Be on the right side of history for our children, for our grandchildren, for our great-grandchildren, for unborn generations. Get on the right side of history.

Yes, history will have made them, but they will have made the right decision.

History makes people; people make history. Either way, be on the right side of history. Don't find yourself on the wrong side of history when you hold yourself out to be a person who adheres to moral authority, the moral imperative to do the right thing. Be on the right side of history.

I have heard people say that the soul of the country is at risk. I concur. But I also say this: Before the soul of the country goes, the soul of the House of Representatives will have gone, the soul of the House of Representatives, the very soul that we have in our hands, that has the moral authority, the moral imperative, to go forward and not allow political expediency to jeopardize our duty to do that which the Constitution affords us the opportunity to do if we have but only the will to do it.

This House is now on trial. The House of Representatives is on trial in the court of public opinion. Some would say: Well, the court is not unanimously opposed. Some 40-plus percent of persons say that impeachment is appropriate.

The public is here today and there tomorrow. The public has no duty to stay in one place all the time. We are looking at a snapshot in time, and the public opinion will change. It does.

When Nixon was first brought before the attention of the Senate, as they were investigating, public opinion was not such that it would call for his impeachment then. Public opinion changes.

I have a great example—unrelated to impeachment, but a great example.

I remember when we had to vote on what has been called the "bailout." I remember the calls to my office. People knew that we were about to, as they saw it, bail out the banks, and the calls were very strong.

People called in in large numbers, saying: Don't you vote to bail out those banks. Don't you do it. If you do it—there was at least one caller, probably more, who said—we will run you out of town.

Well, I remember standing in the back of the Chamber, and as I stood there, after having cast my vote against the bailout, I saw the votes go up and the stock market go down.

And having done what I thought was the appropriate thing pursuant to the requests of my constituents, I could not wait to hear what the response would be the next day.

The response the next day was: What is wrong with you? Don't you see what you have done to my 401(k)? What is wrong with you? We are going to run you out of town.

I learned a lesson about public opinion. Public opinion can be in one place today and in an entirely different place tomorrow.

We should do what we believe is the right thing based upon what our conscience dictates. That is what I do.

I assure you, this is a question of conscience for me, and I am going to follow my conscience, and I will have done the right thing.

Dr. King said there are times when you have to do that which is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular. You do it because it is right.

I am going to do the right thing because conscience dictates that this is the right thing to do.

Madam Speaker, 34 days the President, the administration, is above the law—34 days.

But there is one other thing. There are some things that are indelible, some things that you can't get out of your mind, some things that you just can't reconcile within yourself.

This baby—and we have all seen this picture, or a good many of us have—crying, being separated from a parent—babies—at the border. I don't know the people. I know that they are part of the same race that I am a part of, the human race. I know that I have a kinship and a relationship with them.

For our executive office to promulgate a policy, produce a policy that separates babies from their parents and not have a means by which they can be reunited is sinful.

Babies separated from their parents and no means of reuniting them in place at the time you make this separation?

□ 1845

This is indelible in my mind. There are many other things to think about, but this I think about a lot, how we have treated people who are coming to this country who mean us no harm but who are trying to escape harm's way. I cannot divorce myself from it.

I don't know them. I just know that they are human beings.

I know that there is a crisis at the border. I think we have to deal with it. I want to deal with the border crisis. But I don't think separating children from their parents, as we have done it, is a part of the solution.

I think that persons who would do this are victims. Those Border Patrol officers are victims themselves for what they have to do. Many of them, they don't want to do some of the things that they are being forced to do. They, too, are victims.

But it started at the top. It started at the top with a belief that somehow this would deter people from coming, people who are fleeing harm's way.

I only say to people as it relates to me. I say to myself, but for the grace of God, I could be one of these people. I was just fortunate enough to be born in this country, in a country where there are great opportunities. But for the grace of God, it could be me.

Why would I treat someone with this level of indignity? But for the grace of God, it could be me.

I refuse to let this go. I believe that this, too, is a part of the overall rationale for impeachment.

Madam Speaker, this is our watch. This is the watch that has been afforded us. To every woman and man, a watch is given, and this is our watch.

We can do as best we can to reconcile in our minds that this is okay, that it is all right. But in our hearts, we can't reconcile it. The mind can reconcile it, but the heart cannot.

My heart won't let this be reconciled. In my mind, it is indelible.

I say that, on my watch, I want the RECORD to show that I took a stand. Even when I had to stand alone, I took a stand. It is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

But there are others who are standing, and I believe there will be many more, one of whom happens to be on the opposite side of the aisle. I thank him for having courage.

I know what is going to happen. He is going to be ridiculed, but don't let that become the final word. When the pages of history are properly written, he will be vindicated. He will be vindicated. I assure him, my dear brother, he will be vindicated.

I don't know him. I have never encouraged him to do anything. Nobody can say that he and I have any kind of friendship, really, other than I believe that all of us have collegiality and that we ought to be friendly with each other.

But he is going to be vindicated. Stay strong. People are going to say ugly things. He may even get threats. But stay strong, because he is on the right side of history.

More importantly, he is on the right side of righteousness. The right side of righteousness, what a great place to be.

Don't let the head convince you that the heart is wrong. The heart speaks to the soul, to your very being. The head speaks to those who would listen to you. Let your heart speak to you.

Madam Speaker, I pray that we, in this House, will do that which the Constitution and the Framers of the Constitution have given us the opportunity to do in a time such as this with a President such as Trump.

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

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

#### ADDRESSING THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I think is

the most pressing issue in America right now. But prior to addressing it, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

CONGRATULATING SAMARITAN'S PURSE ON NEW MINISTRY CENTER IN NORTH WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization headquartered in Boone, North Carolina, on its expansion in North Wilkesboro.

This inspiring organization has been providing spiritual and physical aid to impoverished victims of war, disease, famine, and natural disaster since 1970.

The new North Wilkesboro Ministry Center will serve as a lifeline to remote missions in developing countries. It will house inventory from World Medical Mission, including lifesaving medical supplies and an emergency field hospital.

This expansion and the wide-reaching vision of Samaritan's Purse would not be possible without the hardworking and dedicated staff behind it. These great humanitarians are an honor to represent, and I know that they are wonderful ambassadors of North Carolina's Fifth District around the world.

CONGRATULATING NORTH WILKES AND WEST WILKES MIDDLE SCHOOLS ON LIGHTHOUSE CERTIFICATION

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School in North Carolina's Fifth District on their recent achievement of Lighthouse certification for implementing the Leader in Me program. Lighthouse certification is the highest recognition awarded by the FranklinCovey institute, and these are the first schools to receive this distinction in our State.

I commend the schools' administration, staff, and students for embracing new paradigms of leadership and undertaking the comprehensive school improvement model put forth by the Leader in Me program. The program aims to provide a holistic education that encompasses leadership, a culture of student empowerment, and academic achievement.

Congratulations to North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School for their demonstrated success. The high-achieving students are evidence of how effectively local leaders in Wilkes County foster positive results with innovation in education.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, prior to addressing the immigration crisis, which is the biggest problem, I think, facing America today, after hearing a rather lengthy speech before mine, I was analyzing the well here and noticing the flag of the United States of America behind me. As I am looking at that flag, I couldn't help but think about the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance begins: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands."

I pondered why that Pledge of Allegiance refers to this country as a republic instead of a democracy of which it stands. I think it would be a good thing for the other Congressmen up here to think about that as well.

There have been several versions of the Pledge of Allegiance. In each one of the versions, while there are changes made, it refers to our country as a republic instead of a democracy. We should wonder why that is, and I think every Congressman should read up on the difference.

Now, the reason I am here today is to discuss what I think is the biggest problem in the United States of America, the one thing we have to deal with in the immediate future and something that I believe does not grab the attention of Congress the way it should, and that is the immigration crisis.

One more time, another month will go by, and another 100,000 people will enter this country not at the designated points of entry. We believe another 10,000 people will enter at the points of entry and claim asylum, whether they actually need asylum or not.

No country can afford to have over 100,000 people pour into that country month after month after month without being appropriately vetted, stepping in line ahead of the people who are doing what is appropriate to become a citizen of the United States or appropriate to get a work visa in the United States.

Ultimately, this will destroy our country, and it is something that this Congress should be dealing with immediately.

I think it is a little embarrassing, hearing all the other speeches up here and no speeches about the immigration crisis.

I want to point out, neither I nor President Trump wants to reduce the 700,000 people who are sworn in as citizens in this country every year, neither do we want to deal with the 4 million work permits that people in this country already have. Neither are they overly concerned that we, right now, have the highest number of foreign-born people in this country as a percentage of our total population since World War I.

Now, what are we going to do about this crisis? Because, obviously, be it culturally, be it fiscally, we cannot allow this to go on any further.

The first thing I think President Trump should do is end birthright citizenship. To say that if you come here, and particularly given that we allow entire families to stay once somebody is a citizen, to continue to allow the situation to happen in which, if you come here, whether you come in not at a designated point of entry, whether you come here flying in on a jet plane, in the United States of America, a newly born child becomes a citizen.

We and Canada are the only two countries of the 40 wealthiest countries in the world per capita that allow this birthright citizenship to continue.

I know President Trump understands this problem very well. He understands very well, as some Members of Congress do not, that the amendment to the Constitution that talks about people being born in this country becoming citizens was meant to deal with slavery, not meant to deal with anybody who comes here.

I strongly urge President Trump to step up and do something that he talked about doing during his campaign, and that is ending birthright citizenship.

In addition to the fact that it is wrong on its face, as long as you have birthright citizenship, it encourages people to come here, even illegally, knowing that if they have a child here, it will create a situation in which there is a good chance the rest of the family will follow.

The next thing I think we can do is put immigration judges on the border. Right now, people are showing up, and they are asking for asylum. They are given a court date 5 years down the line.

Well, who knows whether they will be around in 5 years. They probably will not show up for the court date at that time.

I strongly encourage President Trump to put judges on the border so we can immediately judge whether these people are entitled to asylum or not.

The next thing, along the same lines, I strongly encourage the Border Patrol to be trained to judge credible fear. Again, we believe that there are people coming from other countries who claim they have a credible fear who do not meet that standard as far as coming to the United States. We know that people are being coached as to what to say to come into this country. By training our Border Patrol to deal with these issues, we will not have so many people coming into the country illegally.

The next thing I strongly think that President Trump should do is he should have ICE round up the million people who already have orders to be deported. This should be a relatively simple matter. By deporting some people, it sends the message to people in other countries that the United States will take our immigration laws seriously.

Today, to a certain extent, because far too many politicians are encouraging things like sanctuary cities, getting rid of ICE, talking about giving public benefits to people who are here illegally, it is not surprising that people in other countries are getting the message that the United States does not treat its immigration laws seriously.

The next thing I think we ought to do is I hope President Trump expedites the rule in the Department of Homeland Security dealing with allowing for removal of people who are taking advantage of public assistance.

□ 1900

Obviously, the United States cannot become the welfare magnet for the en-

tire Western Hemisphere. Everybody knows that, while it is frequently illegal, many people who are here illegally are taking advantage of public assistance, and we should expedite the legal ability to remove these people.

I would like to take a pause here to congratulate Secretary Ben Carson for removing illegals from public housing.

I will point out something a lot of people don't know. Frequently, under Section 8 or, even more, under section 42, the housing assistance they get from the government gives people housing that is superior to what many of the working people get. It is even more ridiculous when people who are here illegally get housing superior to what many of the native-born people in this country who rent are receiving.

So I would like to thank Secretary Carson for having the ability to step up and begin to take a stand on the idea that, if you come here illegally, you should get free or reduced housing.

The next thing I would like to see this House take up is sanctuary cities. I have introduced H.R. 516, which takes away grants from State and local units of government that become sanctuary cities.

There are a variety of problems with sanctuary cities. First of all, it encourages people to go to those cities to get some sort of welfare benefit.

Secondly, whenever a mayor or a Governor wants to declare their city or State a sanctuary city, it sends the message that the United States is not going to enforce its immigration laws. As long as that message is out here, people will continue to flow into our country, and it will eventually be the end of the United States.

The next thing I want this body to do is pass H.R. 848, another bill of mine. The purpose of that bill is to increase the verification for compliance on any welfare benefits which people who are not in this country could be receiving. We are also saying that anybody who is not a citizen of this country should not receive any public assistance, which should be common sense.

If you are coming here for an opportunity and you are not able to find a job, even if you are coming here legally, the answer is not to have the American taxpayer who is already \$23 trillion in debt pick up the tab. The answer is, if you cannot find opportunity in this country, return to your country of origin.

I hope this body, which is spending so much time dealing with less important issues, takes up this bill in the near future.

Finally, I ask President Trump to continue to work towards the wall. I ask this Congress, as we move appropriation bills out, to make sure that wall is funded.

I have been down on the border. I did not find any Border Patrol agents who were embarrassed to do their job or didn't want to do their job. The Border Patrol agents that I talked to on the Arizona-Mexico border felt we desperately needed a wall. They realize

that walls work in other countries, and they realize that in the long- or even in the short-term, walls would save us a lot of money.

Right now, different estimates vary between \$50 billion, \$100 billion a year is lost because of illegal immigration. Given the cost of a wall would be under \$10 billion, it would be a big cost savings. And for a country that is \$23 trillion in debt, we need big cost savings.

In any event, those are suggestions of some of the things we can do to deal with this crisis.

Think about it: 100,000 people coming here every month, people unvetted, people who may wind up on welfare, people who may wind up having a criminal record, and all coming here skipping ahead in line of those people who have sometimes waited 5 or 10 years to come here legally, which is incredibly unfair to them.

In any event, I hope Congress begins to act on these measures. I encourage President Trump to make border enforcement his number one priority over the next couple months, because we can see it. It is very difficult to remove any of these people once they come to this country.

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

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the historic vote taken exactly 100 years ago when this body passed the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

The most powerful tool we have is to share our voice, cast our ballot, and exercise our right to vote. This momentous vote finally allowed women to use that tool and forever have a voice in the future of our beloved Nation.

Adolphine Fletcher Terry, a civic-minded woman from a prominent Little Rock family in the late 1800s and early 20th century, served her State and her country tirelessly to promote the education of women and women's rights. Terry marched for voting rights for women during the ratification process in 1920, saying: "To me, the vote represents more than just saying how a person feels about an issue or a candidate. It represents human dignity and the fact that a citizen can express his or her opinion on any subject without fear of reprisal. That, I think, is what real human dignity consists of."

In advance of the final State's ratification vote in Tennessee, both suffragists and antisuffragists began wearing roses to identify their respective sides. Those favoring women's voting rights wore yellow roses; those against wore red roses. I proudly, today, have worn a yellow rose on my lapel throughout to-

day's activities to show my support of women's right to vote.

What a thrill it is and a proud thing to say, thank you, Madam Speaker, for your service.

#### FENTANYL SANCTIONS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, across Arkansas, heartbroken families have told me of their stories about the opioid crisis and how it has claimed the lives of their loved ones. We can't allow more families to be destroyed by this truly national nightmare that is killing more than 130 Americans every day.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control reported that fentanyl is now considered the number one U.S. opioid killer in 2018. Targeting the source of the world's largest producers and distributors of fentanyl will begin to stop the flow of these drugs coming across our borders and onto our streets.

Madam Speaker, in just one Sweet N Low packet, about a gram, an equal amount of this as fentanyl has the power to kill 500 of our citizens. That is why I am pleased to support the bipartisan legislation that I recently helped introduce, H.R. 2483, the Fentanyl Sanctions Act. This takes the necessary steps to target the bad actors responsible for illegally trafficking fentanyl into the United States.

I applaud my colleagues MAX ROSE of New York, ANTHONY BRINDISI of New York, and BRIAN FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania for their support in introducing H.R. 2483.

This legislation is the first ever fentanyl sanctions effort by the House of Representatives. It will apply pressure on the Chinese Government to honor their commitment to make all fentanyl illegal in China. This bill will also provide the United States with more tools and resources to go after illicit traffickers in China, Mexico, and other countries.

H.R. 2483 has support from both parties and both Chambers, and we need to act now in order to get this done. We cannot wait any longer.

#### ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY BANKS OF AMERICA 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 60th anniversary of the Association of Military Banks of America.

Just as they did back in 1959, military banks today consider themselves privileged to provide financial services, support, and education to the military and veteran communities across this country.

I am particularly proud that First Arkansas Bank and Trust, which serves our airmen and -women at Little Rock Air Force Base, is one of these military banks.

On base, financial institutions have proven to be the single best sources of financial education and support available to our troops. They ease financial burdens and stress faced by our troops and their families so that they can focus on their mission of protecting our great Nation.

Congratulations on 60 years of serving the financial needs of our Nation's heroes.

#### COURT SECURITY OFFICER OF THE YEAR, JIMMY HOWINGTON

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a security officer who continues to have an indelible impact on my State of Arkansas, Mr. Jimmy Howington, who this year was the Court Security Officer of the Year.

Jimmy is one of 33 court security officers in Arkansas and serves under the jurisdiction of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He was chosen for the award from roughly 600 court security officers working in 30 courthouses in the seven States within the Eighth Circuit's jurisdiction.

Jimmy was recommended for this honor for noticing and investigating two suspicious situations on courthouse property during a period of several bomb threats at Little Rock's Richard Sheppard Arnold U.S. Courthouse, where he has worked since 2016.

A former state trooper and sergeant major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Jimmy's life of service makes him well deserving of this award.

I would like to extend a hand of gratitude and congratulations to him for his selfless service to Arkansas and our Nation.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL ROWLETT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and to congratulate Brigadier General Paul Rowlett, who recently was promoted to brigadier general of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Rowlett is a native of Salem, Arkansas, and as a brigadier general will serve as the chief of staff for the Arkansas Air National Guard.

He joined the military in 1988 and is currently an intelligence officer with the National Guard and works with remote-piloted aircraft. His duties include strategic planning on current and future missions.

Rowlett has been assigned to Active-Duty positions throughout his career, including locations such as Guantanamo Bay, and recently he has been assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base for the majority of the time since 2001. He has become one of only three general officers in Arkansas.

My congratulations and best wishes for Brigadier General Rowlett and his bright future defending our beloved Nation.

#### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric Johnson of the Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex for being named the National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.



Eric is an administrative forester that is in charge of restoring and managing some 90,000 acres of forested habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds in the lower Mississippi Valley.

While protecting this extensive acreage, he developed the Nation's first Spatial Habitat Management Plan. This plan will serve as a new national standard for refuge systems and protect all of Arkansas' five refuges, including Bald Knob's Wildlife Refuge in my district.

His service to the State of Arkansas and to wildlife conservation will not be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating Eric on this recognition and wish him much continued success.

U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the daily atrocities in Syria.

Few would have predicted that 8 years ago peaceful protests would turn into violent conflict that has left more than half a million men, women, and children dead, millions more displaced, and the entire region feeling like a lit fuse ready to explode into further conflict.

Shortly after coming to Congress, I met Mouaz Moustafa, a young Syrian American from Arkansas who has been leading a Syrian pro-democracy group here in Washington called the Syrian Emergency Task Force.

After meeting Mouaz, I studied his efforts and learned more and more about the horrific events happening in Syria over the past few years.

□ 1915

Mouaz led me through the Caesar file photos in a special exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Earlier this year, he introduced me to Omar Alshogre, who was arrested as a teenager and survived the torture, starvation, and other brutalities in Assad's prisons for more than 3 years. Seeing those photos and hearing Omar's personal testimony were powerful experiences.

I believe what is happening in Syria today is a modern-day holocaust, and our obligation to end Assad's reign of terror is something that all Americans must confront.

I am grateful for The New York Times and its recent extensive front-page story, in last Sunday's newspaper, going inside Assad's torture prisons.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to this article: [www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html)

Madam Speaker, it is the experiences shared by former prisoners like Omar that remind us of the likes of Hitler, Mao, and Stalin. Bashar al-Assad can add his name to this list of barbarous

thugs who rule with evil, torture, and mass murder.

We have known about these atrocities for years but have only expressed outrage while we twiddled our thumbs as these modern-day Hitlers annihilate the civilian population in Syria.

I commend Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for passing S. 1, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act.

Last week, many of us, including myself, signed the discharge petition for the companion legislation to S. 1 here in the House, H.R. 336 sponsored by MIKE MCCAUL from Texas. This legislation includes the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which has critical provisions to hold Assad accountable for his atrocities.

As Speaker PELOSI well knows, this House, under Republican leadership, has passed the Caesar bill three times over the last three Congresses, only to have it bogged down in the Senate.

Now Leader MCCONNELL has acted, and we, in the House, must now act with expedition and pass H.R. 336 to end this step back into darkness, to stop the torture and the murder of thousands, and to move to convict Assad and his henchmen for war crimes.

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

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISION TO THE AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2019.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA) and H. Res. 293 (116th Congress), I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Allocations, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2020 published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

This adjustment responds to House consideration of H.R. 1500, as amended, the Consumers First Act. This adjustment is allowable under section 1(d)(2) of H. Res. 293, as H.R. 1500, as amended, would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal years 2020–2024 or fiscal years 2020–2029. It shall apply while that legislation is under consideration and take effect upon the enactment of that legislation.

Accordingly, I am revising the aggregate spending level for fiscal year 2020 and the aggregate revenue level for 2020 and 2020–2029 and the allocation for the House Committee on Financial Services for fiscal year 2020. For purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the CBA and other budgetary enforcement provisions, the revised aggregates and allocation are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolu-

tion, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer of the Budget Committee staff.

JOHN YARMUTH.

TABLE 1—REVISION TO ON-BUDGET AGGREGATES  
(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	2020	2020–2029
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority .....	3,712,348	n.a.
Outlays .....	3,677,940	n.a.
Revenues .....	2,740,533	34,847,515
Revision for the Consumers First Act (H.R. 1500):		
Budget Authority .....	2	n.a.
Outlays .....	1	n.a.
Revenues .....	27	19
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority .....	3,712,350	n.a.
Outlays .....	3,677,941	n.a.
Revenues .....	2,740,560	34,847,534

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations for fiscal years 2021 through 2029 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

TABLE 2—REVISED ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
(In millions of dollars)

	2020	2020–2029
Current Allocation:		
BA .....	8,900	101,712
OT .....	1,250	1,428
Revision for H.R. 1500:		
BA .....	2	20
OT .....	1	19
Revised Allocation:		
BA .....	8,902	101,732
OT .....	1,251	1,447

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 20, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2379. To reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

## BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1947, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1947

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2019–2024	2019–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact .....	0	3	1	-2	-3	-3	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-4	-11

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.

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

1060. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Hydroelectric Licensing Regulations Under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 [Docket No.: RM19-6-000; Order No. 858] received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1061. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the United States Capitol Police for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 116—37); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1062. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Whiting; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 21-3; Trawl Rationalization Program [Docket No.: 170627602-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG98) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1063. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Disapproval of Northeast Fishery Sector IX Operational Plan [Docket No.: 170104016-7999-03] (RIN: 0648-XF138) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1064. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Widow Rockfish Reallocation in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery [Docket No.: 150902809-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BF12) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1065. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 56 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan [Docket No.: 170919911-7911-01] (RIN: 0648-XF710) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1066. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; Revised 2017 and Projected 2018 Specifications [Docket No.: 170316276-7483-02] (RIN: 0648-XF300) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1067. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish; Framework Adjustment 10 [Docket Number: 170314267-7566-02] (RIN: 0648-BG48) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1068. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17B [Docket No.: 170823802-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG82) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1069. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's stay of final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Individual Bluefin Quota Program; Inseason Transfers; Correction [Docket No.: 160527473-6999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG09) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1070. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Groupers Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 36 [Docket No.: 161020986-7352-02] (RIN: 0648-BG38) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1071. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 4 [Docket No.: 161103999-7146-01] (RIN: 0648-BG43) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1072. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Amendment to Regulations Implementing the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan; Change to Pacific Mackerel Management Cycle From Annual to Biennial [Docket No.: 160614524-7624-02] (RIN: 0648-BF96) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1073. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment [Docket No.: 161025999-7662-02] (RIN: 0648-BG42) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1074. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to 2017 Northern Albacore Tuna Quota, 2017 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas, and 2017 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Reserve Category Quota [Docket No.: 170602535-7835-01] (RIN: 0648-XF480) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Supplemental report on H.R. 1947. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfer of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs to nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act (Rept. 116-76, Pt. II).

### CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No 2, May 21, 2019 by Mr. Courtney on H.R. 748

## 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. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 2856. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 2857. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National Academy of Inventors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. BASS, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 2858. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PERRY, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2859. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2860. A bill to direct the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a task force for the purpose of studying the effects of automated accounts on social media, public discourse, and elections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2861. A bill to improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2862. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national system for surveillance of vaccine rates, to authorize research on vaccine hesitancy, to increase public understanding of the benefits of immunizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2863. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2864. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on gasoline, diesel, and kerosene fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 2865. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2866. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into grants or other agreements to assist State and local governments with community infrastructure projects that support medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIREN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CROW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2867. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2868. A bill to incentivize States and localities to improve access to justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 2869. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand and rename the Troops-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2870. A bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2871. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2872. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations concerning the

recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 2873. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize the knowing consent of the visual depiction, or live transmission, of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CROW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 2874. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2875. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2876. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. NEAL:

H.R. 2877. A bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 2878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from health savings account for certain home care expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 2880. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide degree granting authority for the United States Army Armament Graduate School, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 2881. A bill to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and

Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to reduce costs for certain businesses required to relocate from a Superfund site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. WALORSKI:

H.R. 2883. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow chiropractors to provide items and services through private contracts with Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2884. A bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2885. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2886. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include a single comprehensive disability examination as part of the required Department of Defense physical examination for separating members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2887. A bill to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SPEIER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. SCHRIER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ESPALLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms.

KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COX of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CROW, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BASS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution supporting reproductive health care in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H. Res. 391. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and National Gun Violence Awareness Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CRAIG (for herself, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 392. A resolution recognizing "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. WILD, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BERA, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 393. A resolution remembering the victims of the violent suppression of democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in China on June 3 and 4, 1989, and calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the universally recognized human rights of all people living in China and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

57. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 19-003, recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo on the fifty-first anniversary of its capture; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 2856.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2857.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

"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 Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 2858.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 2859.

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

This act is justified by the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution which, by granting Congress the power to regulate commerce among the several states, also allows Congress to prevent or prohibit federal interference with Americans' ability to slaughter and process meat. This act is also justified by the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution, which recognize that rights and powers are retained and reserved by the people and to the States.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2860.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2861.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 2862.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2863.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2864.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 1

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2865.

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

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 2866.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have the power to . . . provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . ."

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 2867.

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

Section 1, Article 1

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2868.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2869.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2870.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2871.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2872.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 2873.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 2874.

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

Article 1, Section 8—to provide for the general welfare and to regulate commerce among the states.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2875.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2876.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2877.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 2878.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. 16th Amendment: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2879.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 2880.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 2881.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2882.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 2883.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2884.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

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

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2885.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

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

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2886.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

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

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 2887.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 95: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 141: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 158: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 205: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 372: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 473: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 500: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 510: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 515: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 517: Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 549: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 550: Mr. CROW, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. KIND, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 553: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 555: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FINKENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BERA, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 586: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 621: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 647: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 649: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 651: Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 661: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 663: Ms. CHENEY.

H.R. 669: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 693: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. REED, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 724: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 730: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 748: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 779: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 808: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 864: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 865: Mr. CRIST and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 873: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 921: Mr. RYAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 943: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 959: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 960: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1002: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1004: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1043: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER.

H.R. 1044: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SPANO, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1055: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1058: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1075: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1086: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1133: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. AXNE and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 1154: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1156: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 1175: Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1179: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1225: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 1230: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1236: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1297: Mr. SOTO, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1301: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1306: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1307: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1309: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1325: Mr. BURGESS.



H.R. 1327: Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1346: Mr. SIRES.  
H.R. 1375: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 1379: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 1380: Mr. PETERS and Mr. KIM.  
H.R. 1423: Mr. KIND.  
H.R. 1432: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1452: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 1474: Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1507: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 1530: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1550: Mr. COOPER.  
H.R. 1554: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOLDEN, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1588: Ms. McCOLLUM and Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H.R. 1595: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1605: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. DUNN.  
H.R. 1607: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. WOODALL and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1629: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1643: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 1646: Ms. TITUS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1665: Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 1679: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1680: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1682: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1732: Mr. WRIGHT.  
H.R. 1748: Mr. BACON, Mr. CRIST, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1753: Mr. FULCHER.  
H.R. 1766: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1767: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1773: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 1802: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1837: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1845: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 1850: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 1890: Mr. SPANO.  
H.R. 1933: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1941: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1944: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1948: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BACON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KIM, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1961: Mr. PETERS and Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 1980: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1982: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 2013: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H.R. 2015: Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 2023: Mr. FLORES, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2053: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 2062: Mr. STAUBER, Ms. WILD, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. KIM.

H.R. 2086: Mr. UPTON.  
H.R. 2088: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2089: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. GALLEGGO.

H.R. 2091: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2096: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2112: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2117: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 2137: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2142: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 2146: Mr. TRONE and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2149: Mr. RIGGLEMAN and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2150: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2151: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2153: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2156: Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 2164: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 2178: Mr. KIM, Ms. MENG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 2204: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
H.R. 2207: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 2208: Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 2209: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2218: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2249: Mr. WOMACK.  
H.R. 2258: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2261: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 2271: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2283: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H.R. 2294: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 2315: Mrs. LURIA.  
H.R. 2336: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2344: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 2347: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2348: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. STEUBE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2353: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 2354: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2355: Mr. BANKS.  
H.R. 2382: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2397: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CRIST, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2402: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2406: Mr. SPANO.  
H.R. 2419: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2420: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 2435: Mr. KIND and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2441: Mr. GALLAGHER and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 2443: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2466: Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. WATKINS, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2474: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2481: Ms. STEVENS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. KIM, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. REED, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2483: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROUDA, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 2498: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
H.R. 2505: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2506: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 2517: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2542: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 2568: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 2581: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 2594: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2597: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2615: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2635: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2637: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2648: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2689: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2706: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 2720: Ms. HAALAND and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2729: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2744: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 2747: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2748: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2754: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2759: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2772: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2775: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. COX of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2776: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2778: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2803: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2808: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2809: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 2829: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. LYNCH.

H.J. Res. 48: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.J. Res. 53: Mr. ROUZER.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. MURPHY.

H. Res. 60: Mr. REED, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 91: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 114: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 129: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 134: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 152: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H. Res. 165: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 174: Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 189: Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 219: Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 246: Mr. PENCE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 255: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. AMODEI.

H. Res. 277: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 285: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. RYAN.

H. Res. 321: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 326: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KIND, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. DELGADO.

H. Res. 345: Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. BASS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 354: Mr. HECK, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. REED, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Res. 360: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 372: Mr. TURNER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

## PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

20. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City Council of Prince George's County,



*May 21, 2019*

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

**H4067**

MD, relative to Council Resolution-13-2019, the federally proposed roll back of federal which was referred to the Committee on expressing the Council's strong opposition to protections under the Clean Water Act; Transportation and Infrastructure.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

No. 85

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we are grateful for life and all of its gifts. Thank You for the beauty of the Earth, for the majesty of the skies, and for the wonder of Your love and grace.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they seek to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly each day. Lord, let the light of Your understanding illuminate the path they travel. Teach them to trust Your precepts and to obey Your commands, permitting You to guide them with Your wisdom and might. When this day is done, may they look back with the realization that they have been loving and kind, generous and faithful, joyful and good.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### GOLD STAR FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 1370 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1370) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1370) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:  
S. 1370

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 "Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act".

### SEC. 2. CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS TREATED AS EARNED INCOME FOR KIDDIE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(g)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS.—For purposes of this subsection, any benefit under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs which—

"(i) is received by a child by reason of the child being the survivor of a deceased member of the Armed Forces or of a deceased veteran, and

"(ii) is included in the gross income of such child,

shall be considered earned income of such child."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the papers be held at the desk; that if the House passes a bill identical to the text of S. 1370 just passed by the Senate, the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; finally, that upon passage of the House bill, S. 1370 be indefinitely postponed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

### NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week presents us with more opportunities to make progress on the backlog of qualified nominees who are still awaiting Senate confirmation.

We began yesterday by voting to advance an exceptionally well-qualified nominee to the Federal judiciary. Daniel P. Collins of California was chosen by President Trump to be U.S. circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit, and the reasons why are abundantly clear.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S2985

Mr. Collins is a graduate of Harvard and of Stanford Law School. He has held clerkships on both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Scalia. He served at the Department of Justice as Associate Deputy Attorney General and as Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel. He spent 4 years as an assistant U.S. attorney. He has complemented that experience with more than 20 years of well-regarded work in private practice.

Mr. Collins has developed a reputation for legal excellence. The American Bar Association rates him well qualified for this new post. Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee reported him favorably here to the floor.

I hope my colleagues will join me as we vote later today to confirm this fine nominee.

Following the Collins nomination, we will consider four more nominations to district courts around our Nation: Howard Nielson of Utah, Stephen Clark of Missouri, Carl Nichols of the District of Columbia, and Kenneth Bell of North Carolina. Each has been tapped by the President to fill important vacancies. Collectively, they represent decades of experience in private practice and decades more in public service, and they come before us with the high esteem of their legal peers.

Take the case of Mr. Nielson, whose nomination we will consider first. Former circuit judge Mike Luttig, for whom he served as law clerk, said: "Howard Nielson may well be the single most qualified person to serve on the federal bench that I have ever had the privilege to know."

It would be hard to come up with a more unequivocal endorsement, so I hope each of my colleagues will join me in support of Mr. Nielson, along with each of the nominees who will follow him this week.

I have noticed that a few of my colleagues across the aisle have expressed some displeasure that the Senate has recently been spending some time on nominations. I would remind our friends on the other side that not so long ago, thoroughly qualified district judge nominees were the kinds of nominations that would sail through the Senate floor by voice vote and in big groups.

Since this particular President was inaugurated in 2017, this Democratic minority has largely taken a different view. They have chosen to deploy an unprecedented level of systematic, across-the-board delaying tactics. The effect has been the need for cloture votes and individual consideration for all kinds of uncontroversial nominations, where it hadn't been a tradition in the Senate in the past. So more than 2 years into this consideration, we are left with too many vacancies still unfulfilled and a backlog of qualified nominees who need considering.

Confirming unobjectionable individuals continues to take more of the Senate's time than it should, but this ob-

struction is not going to deter us. We will be here as long as it takes. We will keep confirming highly qualified nominees to the Federal bench. We will keep putting the President's team in place and giving Americans the government they actually voted for.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, as I have discussed many times on the floor, powerful natural disasters have devastated communities across America. Many are still in need of aid as they struggle to rebuild.

My colleagues know all too well the destruction that was brought to States across the Southeast, the gulf coast, and Puerto Rico by a bad hurricane season: tens of billions of dollars in damage to buildings and infrastructure and thousands of people left without shelter or access to clean water and electricity.

We remember the record wildfires that swept across our western regions, the tornadoes that tore through the Deep South, and the rampant flooding that sunk entire communities across the Midwest and affected many of my fellow Kentuckians as well.

We have seen the pain caused by nature's worst. Now it is time for Congress to finally—finally—demonstrate our commitment to America's best. It is time to deliver supplemental resources for the rebuilding efforts that, in many cases, have been inching—just inching—along for months. It is well past time to show the relief workers, the volunteers, and the families still picking up the pieces that we have their backs.

In recent days, important progress has been made to deliver on this overdue commitment. Chairman SHELBY, Ranking Member LEAHY, our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and their counterparts over in the House are continuing their hard work to reach a bipartisan solution that meets the most pressing needs of all of these affected communities. That includes promising steps toward bipartisan agreement to deliver critical resources to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border. The status quo is completely—completely—dysfunctional, so I am glad the agreement seems to be converging on more resources.

I expect to discuss our progress in greater detail as the week unfolds, but it is my sincere hope that in both parties and in both Chambers we will finally—finally—be able to reach a meaningful consensus that can become law and deliver on the priorities of communities that are in need all across our country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the last year, women's reproductive rights have come under a new level of assault. From Alabama to Missouri, to Texas, to Georgia, and beyond, over 300 new restrictions have been proposed in 39 States—bans on abortion as early as 6 weeks, so-called heartbeat bills, arbitrary waiting periods, and restrictions on clinics so severe that they force any center that performs an abortion to close down, leaving a few of our States with no more than a single clinic.

Ten such bills have now passed into law. These restrictions fly in the face of public opinion. The vast majority of the American public don't want to see Roe overturned or a woman's right to choose curtailed so severely as to render it meaningless.

I understand why many of my colleagues here in the Senate don't want to associate themselves with these extreme anti-abortion laws. Some of them have even publicly opposed the law passed by Alabama's Republicans, including the House Republican leader and the President. But let's face it. There is a sleight of hand going on here, because while many of my colleagues don't support these policies out loud, they are, at the same time, confirming judges to the Federal bench with horrendous records on women's rights, many of whom hold extreme views on Roe. These judges, in many ways, have just as much power as State legislatures to restrict a woman's right to choose and limit access to contraceptives through the courts.

Just look at some of the judges the Republican Senate has approved in the past 2 years with almost unanimous support on the Republican side. Look at Leonard Steven Grasz, who wrote about the "moral bankruptcy that's the legacy of Roe v. Wade."

What about Amy Coney Barrett? She said Roe v. Wade had been "erroneously decided" and called the ACA's birth control provisions "an assault on religious liberty." A lot of these judges are not just against abortion. They are against contraception. She is on the bench for life. Amy Coney Barrett, who said that, is on the bench for life and on President Trump's short list for the Supreme Court.

Let's not forget Justice Kavanaugh, who refused to affirm that Roe was settled law and now sits on the one body with the power to overturn it.

Just last week, Republicans confirmed Wendy Vitter, who said Planned

Parenthood kills 150,000 a year and once pushed the idea that contraceptives cause cancer.

We have more coming down the pipeline. Soon the Senate may consider the nomination of Stephen Clark, who belonged to an organization called Lawyers for Life. He once compared *Roe v. Wade* to the *Dred Scott* case.

So Republicans are playing a cynical long game here. They refuse to comment on the anti-abortion bills but are content to install anti-choice judges across the Federal bench who will uphold many of these very same laws. It is hypocritical. It is sort of like that old routine. They are saying: No, no, no, I am not for these laws. Judges, approve them. I am supporting judges who approve them.

It is not fair, it is not right, it is cynical, and the American people are going to get wise to it. We are watching the endgame of a long and concerted campaign by the far right to erode a woman's right to choose through the courts. From the moment that *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, the most extreme elements of the Republican Party have plotted its demise.

The Federalist Society was founded with the intent of cultivating a generation of judges loyal to conservative causes. Its founder, Leonard Leo, was, above all, an anti-choice advocate—some would say, even further, a fanatic. Now that they have a Republican President and a Republican Senate, the Federalist Society can push judge after judge after judge onto the bench with barely a delay and with barely a discussion, where they will have the power to severely curtail a woman's right to choose.

My Republican friends who profess opposition or indifference to these extreme anti-abortion bills while voting for hard-right, anti-*Roe* judges are engaging in subterfuge, if not hypocrisy.

#### CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, there is a topic I have discussed before—the administration's moves to block access to telecommunications equipment to China's state-controlled and state-backed firms, like Huawei. I firmly back these measures. Our defense, law enforcement, and intelligence officials have publicly testified that Huawei and other Chinese telecom companies pose a national threat to the security of the United States. Their technology could allow China to spy on Americans, steal their data, and otherwise conduct espionage.

Also, there is another point. China has taken advantage of us. There is a huge consensus now in America that that has happened. We didn't have that consensus even 5 years ago, but whether it is business or labor, average American citizens, Democrats, or Republicans, everyone agrees that China takes advantage, and one of the main ways they take advantage is they don't let our companies that have top-line

products sell them in China, except under restrictions that make it almost impossible for them to do it. Our major tech companies are excluded from China, but China, at the same time, can sell anything it wants here.

"Reciprocity" should be our watch word. If Google or Facebook or any of our other companies can't sell in China, their top companies shouldn't sell here until they let us in. That is what has happened with Huawei, in addition to the national security concerns, and it makes sense.

So I say to the Commerce Department: Stay strong.

We are now talking about some 90-day delay. I hope this is not a prelude to what we did with ZTE, when we stood tough at the beginning. It had an effect, and then we backed off.

President Trump, don't back off on Huawei.

Commerce Secretary Ross, don't back off on Huawei.

Secretary of Treasury Mnuchin and Ambassador Lighthizer, stay strong.

This will get the Chinese to play fair; talking won't. Tariffs are one tool; this is another. We need all the tools in our toolbox to get China to play fair.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Friday's announcement that the administration had reached an agreement to remove steel and aluminum tariffs on Canada and Mexico was great news for American consumers, producers, and workers. Mexican and Canadian retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products have already been lifted. That is a big deal for American producers, especially for farmers and ranchers, who were hit the hardest by Mexico and Canada's retaliatory tariffs.

Friday's agreement is also important because it removes a significant road-

block to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. With the aluminum and steel tariff settlement and labor reforms recently adopted by the Mexican Government, two major Democratic objections to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement have been addressed. Now it is time for the House Democratic leadership to indicate its willingness to take up the agreement in the near future.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement would boost almost every sector of the American economy, from automotive manufacturing, to digital services, to dairy farming. It would create 176,000 new jobs and increase wages for workers. It is time to take up this agreement. As I said, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement would be a boon for U.S. producers and U.S. workers.

This is the kind of stuff we should be spending our time on in Washington—measures that grow our economy, increase opportunity, and improve life for the American people. That is what Republicans have been working on. Our policies have helped produce the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years and more jobs and higher wages for workers.

Unfortunately, my colleagues across the aisle seem more interested in relitigating the 2016 election and accelerating their party's rapid move toward the radical fringe left.

While I realize the Democrats are disappointed with the results of the 2016 Presidential election, it is time for them to accept the fact that they lost. It has been more than 2 years now, and Democrats are still more focused on opposing this President than on getting things done for the American people.

When Democrats do get around to talking about legislation, too often, it is proposals from the radical fringe left, which is rapidly swallowing up the Democratic mainstream. Take the Green New Deal, the Democrats' plan for a government takeover of a large section of the economy in the name of clean energy. The estimated price tag for this government takeover is between \$51 trillion and \$93 trillion over 10 years. To put that number in perspective, \$93 trillion is more money than the U.S. Government has spent in its entire history, and \$93 trillion is more money than the 2017 gross domestic product of the entire world.

How do Democrats plan to pay for this? Well, they don't actually have a plan. Their usual "tax the rich" solution won't work since taxing every wealthy American at a 100-percent rate wouldn't come anywhere close to paying for the Green New Deal. Should the Green New Deal ever come to pass, working Americans would face massive tax hikes for the privilege of having government dictate the design of their house and the type of their car.

Then, of course, there is the Democrats' plan for a government takeover of the Nation's healthcare. Under so-

called Medicare for All, the government would take away Americans' insurance choices and force everyone into a single one-size-fits-all, government-run plan and then tax Americans to pay for it.

Thanks to policies like tax reform, American families are doing better than they have been doing in a long time. They have been taking home more money. They have access to better jobs and more opportunities, and they are enjoying better wages and benefits. To most people, it would seem logical to continue and build on the policies that have gotten us here, but not to Democrats. Democrats want to overturn the policies that have gotten us to this point. Instead of tax cuts, they want tax hikes so they can implement their socialist fantasies. Instead of less government interference in Americans' lives, they want more. They think the government should be directing your healthcare choices, your housing choices, your energy choices, and much more. It is unfortunate that the Democratic Party is being swallowed by its extreme left wing.

Republicans are going to do everything we can to protect Americans from Democrats' socialist fantasies and to continue to expand the choices and the opportunities available to American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, next Saturday, June 1, marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. It is an important reminder for everyone—from individuals and families to businesses and local officials—to review preparedness efforts to ensure you are ready for anything that Mother Nature may throw at you.

There are simple steps, of course, that everybody can take, like reviewing evacuation routes, signing up for emergency alerts, and making a family communications plan. This is also a great time to look at your insurance policies to ensure that you have the right coverage. This isn't the most fun conversation or topic to talk about at the dinner table, but in the event of a disaster, these small steps can make a world of difference.

As we gear up for the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season, I can't help but think back on the devastation my State saw in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit. This storm was the largest rain event in American history, and some parts of Texas are still in the recovery mode. Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rain to some parts of Houston.

I am sure that many Americans can remember the TV footage of the devastating scenes and the heroism of people who rose to the challenge and helped. The roofs of homes were completely torn off and revealed knee-deep water and scattered furniture. Streets looked like rivers that were filled with small boats that led rescue operations. Folks linked arms and made human chains to help save people who were stranded in their vehicles.

It was the second most expensive hurricane in history, only behind Hurricane Katrina, with an estimated total cost of \$125 billion. While we can put a price tag on the damaged homes, businesses, and infrastructure, there is no way we could even begin to quantify the impact this storm had on lost loved ones and how much it completely upended so many lives.

With that heartbreak fresh on our minds, it only underscores the importance of strengthening our preparedness efforts. Unlike many threats we face, either from our adversaries on the ground or in cyberspace, there is nothing we can do to stop Mother Nature in her tracks. Our only course of action is to be prepared and to build resilient communities that can withstand the impact. We need to continue to do everything in our power to provide assistance to State and local governments so they can protect themselves in the event of severe weather.

One may recall, in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters, that Congress worked hard to provide disaster relief to Texas and other States that were adversely affected. While there is still a lot of work to be done, these dollars have helped my State to rebuild and to bring back some semblance of normalcy. I am grateful to all of our colleagues here for working with us, as well as with Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the other places that were hit at about that same time. I am grateful for the assistance of a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen and for President Trump who worked together to provide disaster relief in the wake of this devastation. Yet here is the rub—much of the funding that has been approved for Texas still hasn't been untangled from the redtape here in Washington, DC.

In February 2018—15 months ago—Congress appropriated more than \$28 billion in community development block grants for disaster recovery, with roughly \$12 billion intended specifically for mitigation purposes. About \$4 billion of that was designated for Texas, and it could still be used to do things, like to repair wastewater treatment facilities that haven't been fully restored, to carry out important economic revitalization in decimated areas, or to relocate or elevate damaged facilities in order to prepare for the next storm. Yet we have not seen a cent of that \$4 billion because it has been tied up at the Office of Management and Budget.

I have said before and will say it again: I look at the Constitution. I see what the President's authority is. I see what the House of Representatives' authority is. I see what the U.S. Senate's authority is. My understanding is, when they all agree on an appropriations bill, that it is the law of the land. Yet somehow, this Agency—the Office of Management and Budget—has seen fit to usurp that authority and to defeat the will of Congress when it comes to getting disaster relief to the intended beneficiaries.

This undue delay, I believe, is unacceptable but is, sadly, not unique to my State. Other States are facing this same unnecessary holdup in getting desperately needed funds. One of those States is West Virginia, which has been waiting more than 3 years to receive funding after the devastating floods of June 2016.

I and my colleague from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN, recently introduced a bill that would require the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that these appropriated funds are promptly disbursed. The Bipartisan Disaster Recovery Funding Act would start a timer—a shock clock, if you will—on when the OMB must release the money. It would give it 60 days to get these dollars untangled from the redtape and get them to the communities that desperately need them.

It is important to note that this change would apply not only to this particular block of funding but to any funds appropriated to States that are being withheld by OMB.

As appropriators continue to work on a disaster supplemental this week, I hope they will include a provision to ensure that States like Texas that have already suffered from a major disaster don't become victims of government bureaucracy.

It has now been 467 days since the President signed a bill that would have sent roughly \$48 billion to Texas, and it is tough to imagine what communities could have accomplished in that time and how much progress could have been made if simply Congress's and the executive branch's will had been carried out by the Federal bureaucracy.

With the 2019 hurricane season only a week and half away, it is critical we get this money out of Washington and into the hands of those who need it so we can begin to work on long-term projects to protect the Texas coast and protect against future storms.

Of course Hurricane Harvey was not the first storm to hit my State, and I guarantee it will not be the last. Texans have waited long enough for the funding that we were promised and that Congress appropriated over the signature of the President, and I hope we can pass something soon to improve the resilience in these communities and carry out congressional will.

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.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ABORTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to start today by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who will be out here today speaking out and to the women and men nationwide who are doing the same today in their own communities.

In the last few weeks, we have seen some of the most blatant and cruel efforts yet to deny women access to a safe, legal abortion. We have seen legislation so extreme, it would even block a 12-year-old survivor of rape from getting an abortion and sentence healthcare providers to prison for providing safe, medically sound care to their patients, which is their responsibility.

The extreme politicians behind these cruel abortion bans are not stopping in Alabama or Missouri or anywhere else; they want to take these bans all the way to the Supreme Court. They want to allow Brett Kavanaugh to do what President Trump and Republicans chose him to do—roll back the decision in *Roe v. Wade* that established a woman's constitutionally protected right to make her own decisions about her own body and her own healthcare.

They are pushing for this even though they know as well as we do that without the ability to exercise that right, women lose their lives; even though they know just as well as we do that without this right, doctors will be blocked from providing medically appropriate care. Let me be frank. Extreme conservatives will push these abortion bans all the way to the Supreme Court even though they know—or maybe even because they do know—that in a world where women cannot control what happens to their own bodies, they are less able to plan their family and stay financially secure and independent. That means they are less free and less equal.

I am not going to stand for that, and Senate Democrats are not going to stand for that either. I am proud to be on the floor today with a number of my colleagues who will be here standing for what our Constitution confirms is true: Women have the right to access safe, legal abortion, and this makes our country stronger because women are absolutely critical to our country's strength. I am proud to be making clear that even in the face of relentless attacks on women's health and rights, we are not going to back down one bit.

The truth is, there are certain extreme politicians around the country who want to take us backward to the

"Mad Men" era or, honestly, quite a bit before that. But they aren't speaking for our country—quite the opposite. In fact, the vast majority of women and men nationwide, including those from all different backgrounds, agree that abortion should be safe and it should be legal, just as our Constitution says. Those people are watching now. They are speaking up, and they are absolutely going to remember who stood up to protect women's health and rights and who pushed to take those rights away.

We have a number of Senators who will be speaking about this today, and I want to thank them for being here today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, while she is on the floor, I want to commend my northwest colleague and friend, Senator MURRAY, for all of her leadership, constantly coming to the floor and leading us on this enormous health challenge—a challenge that is really existential for so many women across the country.

Right now in State capitals across the land, Republican lawmakers are passing extreme bills that throw in the trash can 45 years of settled law on reproductive health. This is an open, coordinated attack on *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose the healthcare she needs. These Republican lawmakers are passing bills that are not only harmful, but they are overwhelmingly opposed by the public—bills with harsh criminal penalties for women and doctors, bills with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest, bills that explicitly compare women getting medical care to the Holocaust. Let me repeat that—bills that explicitly compare women getting medical care to the Holocaust.

I want to be clear on what this is all about. The party of Donald Trump is insisting on government control of women's bodies. That is what is on the table in Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, and elsewhere—government control of women's bodies.

Millions of women across the land are watching in anger and in fear as all of this is playing out. I have heard from many of them back home in Oregon. I heard it last weekend. I have four town meetings in the rural part of Oregon coming up; I am going to hear it again. Women are afraid for the future—their future and their family's future—because they know what is at stake with this coordinated attack on their rights.

First, it puts women's lives in danger.

The reality is, abortions will still happen in States that pass these laws, but those abortions will happen later, and they will be unsafe. Women are going to die. That is a fact. Women are going to die because of these restrictions. If you need proof, just look at the figures before and after the *Roe*

case. In the decades before *Roe*, thousands of women died due to unsafe abortions. And those are only the ones people know about. That doesn't even take into consideration the unnamed, the unknown victims of those misguided policies. After *Roe* was decided in 1973, women's healthcare got safer. Now, once again, there is an effort to undermine that safety of women.

Second, in key ways, the future these restrictive laws are creating is worse for women and healthcare professionals than before *Roe*.

What we are talking about now is jailing doctors for life. We are talking about treating women like hardened criminals after they get a medical procedure. Women in some places are facing the prospect that they may need to report miscarriages to the government or they could wind up in prison.

The other side in this debate paints a picture of women exercising their right to choose that is unfair and unrealistic. These are incredibly difficult choices. Many women exercising the right to choose have just been hit with the most devastating medical news that prospective parents can face. It is not up to State lawmakers and government bureaucrats to step in and interfere with this intensely private and personal choice, but that is exactly what is on offer with the laws being passed in statehouses across the land. These laws bind and punish women with a level of government control that did not exist before *Roe*. This is right out of nightmarish fiction. It is a coordinated attack on women's rights that is cruel and dangerous.

Abortion and other reproductive decisions are healthcare, and healthcare choices ought to be made by women with the help of doctors they trust, not by the Federal Government and not by State lawmakers—women and doctors. That is it. Full stop.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to thank Senator MURRAY and Senator SHAHEEN, who have been such advocates for women's healthcare for many years in public service. They are here.

We are all going to be part of this effort that I am proud to join in to fight at the Federal level with everything we have to stand up for women's right to make intensely personal choices, and we are going to be joining those women across the land who are standing up and fighting with everything they have.

The government should not have control of women's bodies—end of story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here to join my colleagues. I was going to say I am pleased, but I am not pleased. I am disappointed that we are here on the floor today talking about something that should be an issue that is decided by women with their families and their physicians. Yet we are here to sound the alarm about the relentless assault State legislatures and



this administration have leveled against constitutionally protected reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose the healthcare she needs.

I certainly applaud Senator MURRAY, who has done such a great job of leading the response to this assault, and my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, for his efforts.

This radical effort to limit women's freedom to a full range of reproductive care is part of a broader strategy by some in this country to take healthcare away from people who need it. Americans across the country, both women and men, are calling out these threats and fighting them head-on. Today, in hundreds of capitals across this country, in courthouses, at hundreds of rallies, a powerful message is being sent that we are not going back. As Members of Congress here in Washington, we need to join them and defend women's reproductive rights.

In just the past 2 weeks, Governors in Alabama and Georgia signed extreme and dangerous abortion restrictions into law. Yesterday, the Missouri Legislature passed another bill to place draconian restrictions on a woman's access to abortion. These actions are part of a concerted effort around the country to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and to deny women access to reproductive care.

What is so ironic about this is that this is coming at a time when last year this country saw fewer unintended pregnancies than at any time in our history because giving women access to family planning, to the range of reproductive healthcare that women need, means that there are fewer unintended pregnancies. What laws like this will mean is that there will be more abortions, more unintended pregnancies, more maternal health deaths. That is not the direction in which we should be going.

All of these State actions are concerning, especially the new Alabama law, which would outlaw abortion in virtually all instances with no exception for cases of rape or incest. The Alabama law also establishes prison sentences for providers who perform abortions in violation of the abortion ban. So think about that for a second. If a doctor performs an abortion for a rape victim, the Alabama law could put that doctor in prison for as long as or even longer than the rapist. That makes no sense. The Alabama abortion ban, and so many other State laws like it, will not only impede on a woman's freedom to make her own reproductive choices, but it will also push women into the shadows and increase the likelihood of unsafe abortions. We know that. We have data that shows that—not just in the United States but around the world.

Today, one in three women live in States where abortion would be outlawed if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

The Alabama law and other State abortion bans are designed as a direct challenge to the protections provided

by *Roe* in the hopes of forcing action from the Supreme Court and sowing chaos in those States where abortion would be outlawed. So rather than thinking about women and how they will be affected by this law, it is strictly designed to try to challenge the current *Roe v. Wade* law.

Unfortunately, even in the light of the extreme nature of these recent abortion bans, we have an administration that is compounding the issue through its own actions to interfere with access to reproductive health services. Now, whether it is creating new administrative obstacles to insurance coverage of abortion, preventing title X family planning clinics from informing their patients about reproductive care choices, or any of the many other recent Federal actions, the Trump administration's clear goal is to chip away at access to abortion.

Now, these recent actions by States and the administration pose grave threats to the freedoms and reproductive health protections that are relied on by women all across this country.

At this critical time, we need to say loud and clear that we are ready to fight these extreme actions with everything we have.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have been speaking this morning about the access to healthcare for women in America. Today, as women take action across the Nation to bring focus to this issue, I would like to join my colleagues, particularly the senior Senator from Washington, and I thank her for her leadership on this important issue. She knows better than most how many times the Senate and the Congress in the last decade have fought over access to healthcare for women. It seems like every budget debate, every fiscal cliff, every budget negotiation, and every issue had to have a debate about whether we were going to defund Planned Parenthood. So it is not a surprise that we are out here today as States across the Nation try to roll back access to healthcare. I guarantee you, I believe and my State believes that access to healthcare should be and is protected under the Constitution as a right to privacy. We believe that and codified *Roe v. Wade* into statute by a vote of the people in the 1990s. So any time anybody is going to take on access to healthcare for women and erode what is a basic right in our State and, I believe, a basic right protected in our Constitution, we are going to raise our

voices. You are going to hear from us. So it is amazing to me that every budget battle and every debate here in the Senate comes down to rolling back access to women's healthcare.

Now we see Supreme Court Justices who may or may not uphold those basic rights as were established in *Connecticut v. Griswold*, as did a Supreme Court Justice, who just happened to hail from the State of Washington, who understood that the privacy rights protected in the Constitution are in the penumbra of rights. So, yes, I believe that our Supreme Court Justices should also continue that well-established practice of observing those privacy rights. So it is hard to say what all of these State actions will lead to, whether they will make it to the Supreme Court and what this Supreme Court will have to say about it. But I can tell you that we here in the Senate—women who understand the access to healthcare—are so emphatic that we not erode these rights.

I had the very unfortunate situation of having to speak at a funeral this weekend for a 28-year-old former staff member who died of cancer. I know how much fight she had in her, but it was afterward where one of her relatives said to me: Senator, you cannot leave this unaddressed.

Young women at college campuses are not getting the breast exams to do early detection that they should. They should be out there. We should do more to evangelize that young women need to pay attention to their healthcare. Yet we are here across the Nation having this debate, and I guarantee you that the access to healthcare to do those early detections in a lot of communities comes with the access that organizations like Planned Parenthood and others deliver. So while they are not what is immediately under attack by these States, I guarantee you that it is all a part of a larger debate that needs to stop.

Healthcare should be the right of women to be discussed with their doctors and continue to be protected under our Constitution.

I thank the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Washington for that personal story, and I am sorry for her loss of a former staff member. I think that story is a good place to start because this isn't just about an isolated bill passing in one State. This is actually part of a greater effort.

As you look at what this administration has been trying to do since day one, defunding Planned Parenthood—OK, well, that is where one out of five women in their lifetime will go to seek healthcare for things like cancer screenings and for things like contraception. You look at the fact that over the span of the last administration, we actually reduced abortions to the lowest level in recorded history. That is a

good thing. People who are personally opposed to abortion or people who are pro-choice can agree that that is a good thing. Why did that happen? Because contraception was available. Why did that happen? Because healthcare was available that allowed, with more ease, women to access contraception. So now what do we have? We have three things going on. These restrictive laws that literally put doctors in prison for 99 years is what I will talk about today. We have an effort to defund Planned Parenthood and to reduce access to contraception as a result. Then we have an effort—a major effort—to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, which would allow women to be kicked off of their healthcare insurance if they have a preexisting condition. Before that act came into law, in eight States, being a victim of domestic abuse was considered a preexisting condition. So do not see these laws that were just passed in these States and are being considered in these States as isolated. Look at it as a complete package, and it is not a package that the women of this country want to get in the mail.

I have always believed that a woman's most personal and difficult medical decisions should be made with her doctor and her family and that those decisions should not be undermined or politicized by Government officials. But that is exactly what we are seeing today. In the last few months, an alarming number of States have passed laws to limit a woman's ability to seek reproductive healthcare services. Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi, and Georgia have all recently passed measures that basically amount to a ban on abortion. Just last week, Alabama passed a bill that effectively and in writing banned abortion completely. The bill which passed the Alabama State Senate—by the way, without a vote of a single woman senator—would allow a doctor who performed an abortion to be sent to jail for 99 years. The Alabama law's only exception is if a woman's life is at risk. It does not even include an exception for incidents of rape or incest. So what does this mean? Well, if your kid is in college and gets brutally raped, it means that she would not have a choice about whether or not she would carry a baby. That is what that law says in Alabama. And if a doctor intervened, if a doctor wanted to help in that State, he would be sent to prison for 99 years—or up to 99 years. This is not something I am making up or exaggerating; this is what this bill that passed one of the States and is similar to bills in other States actually says.

What we are seeing, of course, is wrong and unconstitutional. These bills directly infringe on a woman's right to make her own medical decisions and the precedent that the Supreme Court set in *Roe v. Wade*, which has been affirmed many times over the last 46 years.

You wonder where the public is on this? Seventy-three percent of Ameri-

cans do not believe that *Roe v. Wade* should be reversed. In my State, I have people who are pro-choice, and I have people who are pro-life. I have people who personally believe they do not want to have an abortion; however, they don't think that their views should dictate what happens to their neighbors. That is the problem. That is the nub of the problem with what is going on in these States.

The precedent in *Roe* is clear, but these lawmakers have decided that they want to take away a woman's basic right to make a personal healthcare decision. In fact, they are passing these bills with the hope that it goes to the Supreme Court where this administration has placed judges on that Court where there is a lot of hope, with the people who are passing these restrictive laws, that they are going to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

After signing the new abortion ban into law, the Governor of Alabama released a statement in which he said the sponsors of this bill believe it is time, once again, for the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about “the best opportunity for this to occur.”

So don't tell me this is just one legislature deciding they are going to do something other people in this Chamber on the other side of the aisle don't agree with. No. No. No. This has been an effort that has been going on for years. This is an effort that is going on during an administration with a President that, in a townhall meeting in March of 2016, said that he thought women should be punished for making that decision. A few hours later, his campaign tries to dial it back with the statement: No, he meant that doctors should be punished.

This is not just an isolated incident, which is why so many of my colleagues have taken to the floor today. We can have individual disagreements, and we can have our own personal beliefs, but as elected officials, we must follow the Constitution of the United States. Overturning *Roe* isn't just unconstitutional. As I said, it is against the wishes of the vast majority of the people in this country.

In the last few years, as I have noted, we have seen an assault on women's access to care. We have seen it with the attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, even though, during the Obama administration, we saw a historic decrease in abortions. According to a CDC study conducted between 2006 and 2015, abortion rates fell to historic lows near the end of the Obama administration.

What should we be doing? Well, we should be providing more access to healthcare services, comprehensive health education, and contraception, not less. We should ensure that women are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed healthcare decisions.

In the Senate, I have fought back against efforts to undermine the abil-

ity of a woman to make choices about her own health. I have cosponsored the Women's Health Protection Act, important legislation led by Senator BLUMENTHAL, to prohibit laws intended to restrict women's access to reproductive health services, and I look forward to cosponsoring this bill again when it is reintroduced.

I thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership over her many, many years in this area. It is our responsibility to treat women in every State in this Union with respect and dignity, instead of using them as political pawns.

I join my colleagues in condemning these recent efforts to restrict women's access to healthcare services, and I will continue working to protect the health and lives of women across the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is difficult to believe that it is happening, but I have seen it. It was about 5 weeks ago that I was in El Paso, TX. I went down to see what has been happening on the border. You can't escape all the stories that have been written about the number of people who are coming to our border and what is happening to them, so I wanted to see it for myself.

I saw what was a detention facility for people who had been stopped at the border. There was a cell with a plate glass window, so that you could see everything inside. Above the door of the cell, it said, “capacity 35.” I looked inside and counted—took the time to slowly count—and I counted 150 men in that cell, standing shoulder to shoulder. Few of them could sit on the benches on the side of the walls—150.

There was one toilet in that cell. They were fed their meals to eat standing up. They slept taking turns lying down on the floor. Some of them would be there for 3 days and some as long as 6 weeks.

Next to that cell was another one with a plate glass window; you could see inside. Above the door, it read, “capacity 16.” This was a cell for women. I counted 75 women in that cell—“capacity 16.” There were four or five of them with nursing babies.

I have since learned, in the few weeks since I saw this and witnessed it firsthand, things have gotten dramatically worse. The cell with 150 now has almost 200 men jammed into it. The cell with the women is even worse than what I saw when I visited.

If I described these conditions in a prison in some foreign country, you would say: For goodness' sakes, the United States of America should speak up for human rights. We cannot allow human beings to be treated that way.

This detention facility for these immigrants is in the United States of America. It has to come to an end, and it has to start with a commitment by the people of this country through their elected representatives in Congress and this President to stop this inhumane treatment of these individuals.

Today, I am sending a letter that I never thought I would send. I am joining other Senators in a letter to the International Red Cross. You see, we call on the International Red Cross to go to developing countries and look at their prison situations and decide whether they are humane.

I cannot believe that I am asking them to do this in the United States of America. Because I have seen it with my own eyes and I have been told that it is getting worse, I feel I have no choice.

I am also asking for the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security to immediately, on an emergency basis, review the detention facilities for adults and children. Why do I raise that point? We know what this administration did last year in a project called zero tolerance.

Zero tolerance, announced by the Attorney General of the United States Jeff Sessions, said we will treat everyone who comes to our border as a criminal. Understand that people can come to our border and present themselves, as many of these people do, and ask for asylum. They have turned themselves in. They are not sneaking in.

They have turned themselves in for adjudication as to whether they are eligible to be in this country. Attorney General Sessions said last year that we will treat them as criminals, and therefore, because they are suspected criminals, we will remove their children from them.

How many kids under zero tolerance were taken by the Trump administration away from their parents? More than two thousand eight hundred—I know that number because a Federal judge in southern California took this administration to court and said: I want an accounting for every one of those children.

I saw those children—at least some of them—in Chicago. They go through a bureaucratic process and end up at agencies—at Health and Human Services agencies to try to place them in foster care or connect them up with a member of their family.

I remember, in a room, they brought in some of the children who had been taken away from their parents. There were two little 4-year-old girls who I thought were sisters, and then as I looked more closely, I realized they weren't. They just seemed like sisters, and they had become friends at that facility. They were 4 years old, holding hands. We gave them crayons and coloring books, what you would give to little kids.

Then I went to an immigration court proceeding in downtown Chicago in an

office building. You would never know it from the street, but on the fourth floor of this high-rise, we have a U.S. immigration court. A very caring judge was there, and she was trying to get through a docket that was very heavy.

She invited me to stay for the first case of the day that involved two clients. It was tough to get this proceeding underway because zero tolerance had resulted in more children coming into these immigration courts. The difficulty in getting this hearing underway was that she said: Before we start, I want everyone to take their seats.

It was hard to get Marta to take her seat. Marta was 2 years old. She had to be lifted into the chair and handed a stuffed animal for her hearing. Luckily for the other client, Hamilton, he spotted one of those Matchbox cars on top of the table, and 4-year-old Hamilton scrambled up into the chair.

In the United States of America at an immigration hearing, the clients were 2 years old and 4 years old because of the conscious policy of this administration to separate children from their parents. So we have this setting with detention cells jammed with people in inhumane circumstances and the separation of children from their parents.

I sent a letter to the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services asking about these children who had been separated. They came back to me a few months ago and said: We have discovered there were more.

Before they announced it, this administration had been separating infants, toddlers, and children from their parents as they presented themselves at the border. The judge who was involved in the case in southern California stepped in and asked: Well, how many?

It is now reported at least 1,712 more kids may have been separated. That means we have over 4,500 babies, toddlers, infants, and children separated from their parents by this administration. Sadly, some of these children will not be reunited. Their parents were sent back, usually to the Central American countries they came from, and now the kids are in the system and way too young to even remember who Mom or Dad was.

This circumstance has reached the point of a humanitarian crisis on our border. How can this President, who was elected promising that he would do something about immigration, have brought us to this terrible moment where we have more people presenting themselves at the border than we have had in recent history—certainly those with children? We have never had families in these numbers showing up. The tougher this President's rhetoric is and the meaner his tweets are, the more people come to our borders. It is exactly the opposite of what he promised us.

This circumstance here is absolutely intolerable, unacceptable, and embar-

assing to our country. That we would have to call on an international organization to look at the way we are treating people in the United States—I am sorry it has come to this. But in good conscience, I can't ignore it.

The most recent news report said that another child died at the border. I think that brings the total to five in the last few months. Is that what America has come to?

We need to have an immigration policy that makes sense. Absolutely, we must have border security. In an age of terrorism and drug epidemics, I want to know what is coming into this country, and I want to know what they are bringing with them.

Second, the United States certainly cannot accept everyone in the world who wants to come here. It is understandable they want to live in this great country. That is what brought my grandmother and more to these shores as immigrants to this country. But we cannot accept everyone in the world.

Third, we don't want anyone dangerous coming into this country, period. No exceptions. If you are dangerous and not legal in this country, you should be gone.

Having said that, now it is our burden to come up with a comprehensive immigration bill that makes sense for this Nation of immigrants in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate and this empty Chamber tell you how much work we do on legislation. We give speeches—we ran for the Senate to give speeches—and occasionally we vote on another nominee every few hours. That is it. You will not see a comprehensive immigration bill come to the floor of the Senate. It hasn't—not this year and not for the previous 6 years. But the last time it did, I was part of a bipartisan effort that wrote one that passed the Senate with I believe 68 votes—an overwhelming rollcall, bipartisan, in favor of immigration reform. That died in the Republican-controlled House, and there has never been another try since. Why were we elected to come here if we can't face this problem squarely, dealing with what is going on at our border and making sense of our immigration system?

There is a humanitarian nightmare on our border, but I will tell you about another one. This President decided to end the DACA Program. I know a little bit about that—maybe more than some of my colleagues—because it was 19 years ago that I introduced a bill. We do a lot of that. This bill was called the DREAM Act—19 years ago. It said: If you were brought to this country as a child, you lived here, went to school, and didn't get in trouble with the law, you ought to have a chance to become legal in America. That was it. For 19 years, we have been trying to make it the law of the land and have been unable to get 60 votes in the Senate. We always got a majority but never the 60 votes we needed.

I appealed to my former Senate colleague and friend, President Obama, and said: Can you do something to help these young people who have never known another country and want to be part of the United States and its future? Many of the schoolchildren who visit us here get up in their classrooms every day, and I am proud to say they put their hands over their hearts and pledge allegiance to that flag. These kids do exactly the same thing. It is the only flag and the only country they have ever known.

So President Obama created what was called DACA, and more than 800,000 of these young people stepped up, paid a filing fee of almost \$500, went through a criminal background check, and were given a chance to stay legally in the United States for 2 years at a time, not to be deported but be able to work and go to school—more than 800,000 of them.

I really believe in them. And you know human nature—out of 800,000, there have to be some of them in there who are going to disappoint you. But I stand here today in the Senate and tell you that in all of these years since President Obama did that, I have never heard any of those stories. These are extraordinary young men and women. I have told their stories on the floor of the Senate—over 120 of them—of how these DACA-protected young people want to become part of America's future.

Let me tell you about a group of them in Chicago. Loyola University in Chicago is a great school, and they have a great school of medicine. When they heard about the DACA Program, they said: We are going to open up competition to these DACA-protected young people to compete to go to medical school. And the news flashed across the country because many of these young people who dreamed of being doctors had no chance because they were undocumented. Because of DACA, they were given temporary legal status, and because of Loyola University, they were able to apply. Over 30 of them were accepted to the medical school—some of the brightest kids living in our country who wanted to become doctors.

There was a catch: If you went to Loyola and you needed to borrow money—and most of them did—you had to promise to give a year of service back to the State of Illinois, which loaned you the money to go to school, for each year they loaned the money. They signed up for it. They were ready to go to neighborhoods where we needed doctors and to small towns in rural America where we desperately need doctors. These young people are some of the best and brightest I have ever met, every one of them an inspiration.

When President Trump eliminated the DACA Program, he eliminated their opportunity to continue their medical education. You see, after 4 years of medical school, you go into a residency. A residency is a job, employ-

ment, and it is a lot more than 40 hours a week, I might add. But since President Trump eliminated DACA, they cannot legally take a job.

This case is going through the courts now as to whether the President had the right to eliminate DACA. He didn't. Last Friday, a second court said that he was wrong, that he had no reason, no basis to eliminate this program.

When you hear these stories about what is happening at the border and at these detention cells; when you hear about the conscious decision of this administration to separate infants and toddlers from their parents—4,500 of them having been separated; when you hear about this administration coming forward to eliminate the DACA Program and to stop these medical students from becoming doctors and serving in my State, where they are desperately needed, you have to ask: Mr. President, what is your immigration policy? Why have you made such a mess of this situation that wasn't very good to start with?

And what are we going to do about it? Anything? Not in this empty Chamber. Not today. We are just going to pick up the papers every morning and say: Isn't it a shame? Well, it is more than a shame; it is an embarrassment to this country that this Nation of immigrants has reached this moment.

Mr. President, I continue to appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, come forward, and let's solve these problems together.

I have been part of bipartisan groups who have come up with comprehensive bills and all sorts of legislative responses. My door is always open to anyone who wants to sit down.

In the meantime, bring humanity to our border. Let's not do things with these people presenting themselves at our border that don't speak well of our values and our reputation around the world. We can do better. We can provide humane treatment.

Even as Congress fails to do its job, those people at the border deserve to be treated like human beings as we work through our legal issues and our political issues. No more separation of children from their parents. How devastating it must be for that child. When some of these parents were reunited with their children—these little babies and infants—the young kids wouldn't talk to their mothers. They turned away from them. With their body language, they said what we knew was going through their minds: You abandoned me. You left me. I don't know who you are anymore.

Over time, maybe they can reestablish that relationship. Child psychologists tell us there could be some damage that needs to be repaired there. Isn't that a shame, that an innocent child would go through that experience?

Now that we know there may be 1,712 more of these children, we need to do everything we can to work with this

Federal judge, who had the courage to step up, to reunite them with their parents as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I want to call on this administration and the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, to go down to the border, take a look at the detention facilities, and do everything possible to make certain there is humane treatment there. These are desperate people risking their lives to come to this United States of America. We owe them at least humane treatment while they are here, as our political and legal system works its way through it.

(Mr. CRUZ assumed the Chair.)

#### ABORTION

Mr. President, people are following what is happening in States like Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, where State legislatures are considering legislation on the issue of abortion.

I know this is a very inflammatory and divisive issue. I have seen it firsthand throughout my political career. I have good friends who are on one side of the issue, who smile and say hello but wouldn't vote for me in 100 years because of this issue. I have others who passionately support me because they are on the other side of the issue. For some people, it really is the litmus test on how they will vote for a candidate.

For over 40 years, we have tried to reconcile this issue, this basic question: When does life begin? In *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court said: We are going to base it on the concept of viability, survivability of the fetus, as to an individual's right when it comes to making this decision as opposed to society's right or responsibility.

Over the years, there has been a lot of debate as to whether that *Roe v. Wade* decision was right or wrong. We have seen a lot of different efforts to change it—some successful and some not—and we have seen subsequent Supreme Court cases which redefined *Roe v. Wade* as well.

Now we have a group who believes they can move forward on this in the State of Georgia and in the State of Alabama. What they have proposed is much different from what we had accepted as the norm for decades. For example, they have eliminated any exceptions for rape and incest. Most people understand that victims of rape and incest should be viewed differently from others, but in the State of Alabama, they eliminated those exceptions in the law they have just passed.

Why are they doing that now when Federal courts in the past have—in the immediate past—decided they can't go that far? It is because they believe that because of the actions of the U.S. Senate, it is going to change in the courts. This President has appointed two new Justices to the Supreme Court—Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. The belief is, even though they have told us over and over again that *Roe v. Wade* was settled law, if this new law in Alabama

makes it across the street to the Supreme Court, they may use this Alabama law to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

On a regular basis here, we continue to bring judges before us who have extreme views on this subject and, without much debate, give them lifetime appointments to the Federal bench—district and circuit court judges, several of whom are before us this week.

I have heard from them in the committees. Just last week, we had Judge Vitter from Louisiana. She is a person who has blamed Planned Parenthood for deaths and has said at one point that she believes that contraception—the pill—was dangerous to women. That was her conclusion without scientific evidence to back it.

She just got a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench. Those are the kinds of nominees who are brought to us by this administration. So is it any wonder that the Alabama legislators were encouraged to think, if we can pass this law and just get it to the right Federal judge, somebody under the Trump administration, we are going to overturn *Roe v. Wade*? I think that would be a serious mistake if it happens.

The overwhelming majority of Americans support *Roe v. Wade*. Yet a total of 30 States have now sought to restrict the rights of women to make that healthcare decision, and some would directly or virtually reverse *Roe v. Wade*. What we are facing is not a few far-right politicians making a statement out of mainstream. This is a systematic effort by Republicans and State legislators to restrict women's reproductive rights and ultimately overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

What else do these State legislators have in common? They rank among the lowest when it comes to gender representation and women in power. Meanwhile, here in the Senate, Republican Leader McCONNELL has lined up even more extreme ideological judicial nominees who have records of restricting women's rights.

Just last week, as I mentioned, the Republican majority confirmed Ms. Wendy Vitter, who once promoted the concept that contraceptives cause cancer and claimed that Planned Parenthood kills 150,000 women a year. That anyone can make those statements and then be approved by this Senate Chamber for a lifetime appointment to a Federal bench tells you the standards being used by the Trump administration and by the Republicans in this body. She was confirmed to a lifetime appointment.

This week, the Senate is considering Mr. Daniel Collins, who has been nominated to the Ninth Circuit over the objections of both California Senators. He filed an amicus brief in support of Hobby Lobby petitions to deny female employees of that corporation contraceptive care, and he has argued that pregnancy clinics need not follow a local notification law informing patients about their options when it comes to birth control.

Also, this week, we are considering North Carolina district court nominee Kenneth Bell, who once wrote in an op-ed, and I quote, "There is no middle ground" on this issue of abortion.

Missouri district nominee Stephen Clark is before us as well. He spent much of his legal career litigating against reproductive rights and access to contraceptives.

These are the nominees to take lifetime appointments on the Federal court. You have to bring together the action of Alabama with the action on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Alabama is setting up the test case. The Republicans in the Senate are setting up the courts in the hopes that they will rule in their test case to put an end to *Roe v. Wade* and to say that despite the support of a majority of Americans, women do not have the last word when it comes to their own bodies, their own lives, and their own pregnancies.

That is what this is about today in America on our political scene. That is certainly what the next election is all about, as well—division of America, the rights of women, and the rights of individuals to make their own decisions about their own bodies.

I hope that the Republican leaders who have expressed their misgivings about the Alabama legislation will do much more than that. I hope they will join us in trying to maintain some sort—if not a consensus, some sort of understanding about how we deal with this extremely divisive issue.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KING

Mr. President, in a sermon on the Good Samaritan, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that most people who come upon a stranger in need ask: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?"

But the Good Samaritan reverses the question and asks: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The latter person is rare and special, Dr. King said. On the Saturday before Easter, that special person was another man named Robert King of Chicago. Mr. King was driving on heavily traveled Lake Shore Drive, which passes right in front of my apartment, when he saw a green and white van on the side of the road. Another vehicle had crashed into that van at a stoplight. The van was a wreck.

Many cars passed the accident and did nothing, but Robert King didn't. Mr. King pulled over to stop and see if he could help. He noticed that the man in the van held a cooler and thought he might be delivering food. King was stunned to find out that the van was an organ transplant vehicle and the man in the van was an organ transplant surgeon, Dr. Kofi Atiemu. Inside the cooler were three precious human organs—a liver, a kidney, and a pancreas—that needed to be rushed to nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital as soon as possible.

Robert King, a passerby, stopped to help one stranger in need. He ended up

helping to save two lives. Those precious organs were the final magnanimous gift of a young woman who died too soon and had the heart to donate her organs. One patient at Northwestern received her liver and kidney, while her pancreas went to another patient at a separate hospital.

The president and CEO of Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network, Kevin Smunt, put it best: "Here was just a regular Chicagoan"—this Robert King—"who, through the kindness of his heart, helped us honor a donor family who was kind enough to donate the most precious gift anyone can ever give."

At the Chicago Organ Summit's annual gathering, government officials, doctors, advocates, and families of donors gathered last month and honored Robert King for his act of kindness, which saved lives and told his story to the world. The two people who were helped by Robert King's thoughtfulness are among an estimated 113,000 men and women and children in America who are living and waiting and hoping for organs to reach them. Every 10 minutes, another person is added to that list. Every day, sadly, 20 people die waiting for a transplant.

The human body contains eight organs that can be transplanted to save lives—the heart, two lungs, two kidneys, a pancreas, a liver, and intestines. And here is the hope: Each of us can choose to save up to eight lives by becoming an organ donor.

The world needs Good Samaritans. It needs more Robert Kings and more organ donors.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Collins nomination?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

## YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

## NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

## NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, shall be brought to a close?

The majority leader.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following this vote, notwithstanding rule

XXII, the Senate recess until 3:45 p.m. and that at 3:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, the confirmation votes on the Nielson, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, May 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

## YEAS—52

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

## NAYS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 3:45 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:08 p.m., recessed until 3:46 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ALEXANDER).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Tim Scott, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

## YEAS—53

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

## NAYS—45

Baldwin	Casey	Harris
Blumenthal	Coons	Hassan
Booker	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Brown	Duckworth	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Jones
Cardin	Feinstein	Kaine
Carper	Gillibrand	King



Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Sinema  
Smith

Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

## NOT VOTING—2

Bennet

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53 and the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

## YEAS—55

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hawley	Portman
Braun	Hoeben	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Cassidy	Inhofe	Romney
Collins	Isakson	Rounds
Cornyn	Johnson	Rubio
Cotton	Jones	Sasse
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Daines	Manchin	Sinema
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	McSally	

Sullivan  
Thune

Tillis  
Toomey

Wicker  
Young

## NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—3

Bennet

Booker

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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 Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

## YEAS—56

Alexander	Cotton	Hawley
Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeben
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Cruz	Inhofe
Boozman	Daines	Isakson
Braun	Enzi	Johnson
Burr	Ernst	Jones
Capito	Fischer	Kennedy
Cassidy	Gardner	Lankford
Collins	Graham	Lee
Cornyn	Grassley	Manchin

McConnell  
McSally  
Moran  
Murkowski  
Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch

Roberts  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Shelby

Sinema  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker  
Young

## NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—2

Bennet

Booker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Louisiana.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, this month is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the goal of Mental Health Awareness Month is to recognize the importance for personal well-being, the need for research and education, dispelling the stigmas associated with mental illness, and to improve mental healthcare to ensure that care is available to ensure that the first episode of mental illness is the last.

A goal with Mental Health Awareness Month is the awareness that is necessary for the programs to be implemented so that that young person with their first episode is returned to wholeness, and, again, as I said earlier, the first episode is the last. It recognizes that mental health is a societal issue associated with homelessness, crime, suicide, physical health, and public health issues.

Now, when you speak of mental health, it is a little bit almost like: Oh, my gosh, this is going to be a futile issue. It is so difficult for someone who has serious mental illness to return them to wholeness. It is so difficult that sometimes the individual, their family, and society throws up their hands and says: There is nothing to do, so why try.

You see manifestations of that with the homeless people walking around this city and every city in the United States, many of whom are mentally ill; yet there can be hope.

I called a person back home from Baton Rouge, LA, and asked her for a

story, if you will, of how someone with mental illness issues can be returned to wholeness, so let me tell you about Mary. When you walk with Mary, you can't help but feel happy, happy, happy. That is because Mary radiates the joy of how Capital Area Human Services helped change her life.

Mary says:

I go out and help the community every day. I became successful in my life because of my faith in God and because of the wonderful people at Capital Area Human Services. Today I give back to the community what Capital Area has given to me.

It wasn't always this way. For nearly 20 years before being referred to Capital Area Human Services, Mary lived in group homes and was dependent upon others for basic needs.

I am now quoting Mary:

I weighed 340 pounds. I was sick all the time, was in and out of hospitals. I was barely able to function. I was on so many medicines I could not keep track.

When Mary came to Capital Area Human Services in 2006, she was first helped at the Margaret Dumas Center at the Government Street location. She eventually entered the total health program, and even more dramatic changes began.

Now, let me point out as a physician—I am a doctor—I have learned from folks such as the people I am quoting now that mental health is often associated with physical health problems. So someone who is seriously mentally ill is more likely to die in their 50s than they are in their 80s with untreated hypertension, diabetes, or perhaps, because they are homeless, subject to violence on the streets.

So let me now go back to Mary's story. When she entered the total health program, she lost nearly 100 pounds, no longer needed to take blood pressure medicine, changed her diet, participated in fitness programs, and continued to attend mental health therapy sessions.

Today Mary is a different person. She lives independently in her own apartment, attends Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, walks 2 hours every day to volunteer for various duties at the St. Agnes Catholic Church soup kitchen, where she also sings for the attendees. Mary credits the nuns at St. Agnes for teaching her how to cook, prepare meals, and serve.

Also, Mary is a regular volunteer at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital chapel, where she reads Scriptures for some of the services.

Mary said she loves Capital Area Human Services, tells everyone she knows about the people who helped her, particularly Keshia, John, the staff at Margaret Dumas, the staff at the Government Street location, and former total health employees Roy and Ricky.

She says:

I was motivated and didn't give up. It made me happy to do this for myself. I proved that I could do it, and I'm doing it. It's winter, but I'm out there anyway.

Now, I give that kind of personal story to give an example of someone with serious mental illness returned to wholeness. Now, I love that because I always tell folks when I speak that we in Washington, DC, can propose legislation, but unless there is local leadership, nothing good happens.

In 2016, I collaborated with CHRIS MURPHY, as well as EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Tim Murphy in the House, to pass the Mental Health Reform Act. It increased access to mental healthcare for adults and children, it strengthened leadership and accountability for Federal mental health and substance abuse programs, and it established new programs for early intervention. It was called by Senator ALEXANDER the largest reform to our mental health system in decades. I continue to work with President Trump's administration to implement these reforms.

Now, none of this Federal legislation makes a difference unless there is State and local leadership, as was demonstrated in the story which I gave. Last October, I held a mental health summit in Baton Rouge and brought together Federal, State, and local leaders, and the purpose was to discuss proven methods in how to work together to improve the provision of mental health services in both Louisiana and the United States.

There is still important work to do. If we are going to return these folks to wholeness, these folks—our family members, our neighbors, our fellow Americans.

The Mental Health Parity bill became law 10 years ago, but patients still have trouble accessing mental healthcare in the same way they access physical healthcare, caused by, among other things, the lack of mental health providers, prior authorization requirements, and reimbursement rate setting. I am committed to ensuring patients have access to the treatment so they return to wholeness.

We need the story of Mary not to be something so unusual that it is read upon the Senate floor, but something which is so common that we know it to be true. Instead of throwing up our hands—kind of, oh, my gosh, serious mental illness; there is nothing to do—instead we look to hope with a future for someone who could be returned to wholeness so that her first episode of mental illness is her last episode of mental illness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

#### MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, May is Military Appreciation Month. In light of that, I come to the Senate floor to remind us all just how important our military is to our way of life. One of the blessings of being a U.S. Senator and being on the Armed Services Committee and a past member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have had the privilege to travel, as you have, around the world, visiting with our men and women in uniform.

I have concluded that the best—and I mean the very best—of what we produce here in America is in uniform around the world, worn by our women and men, protecting our interests and defending freedom around the world. There are only six reasons in the Declaration of Independence why 13 Colonies got together in the first place, and one of those was to provide for the common defense.

Today, the world is more dangerous than any time in my lifetime. Today, the United States faces five threats across five domains. This is much more complicated than the world has ever seen. Today, we measure the threats in this manner: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism across five domains.

It used to be air, land, and sea. Unfortunately, today, it is air, land, sea, cyber, and now space. The tragedy, frankly, of our time is we have treated space as a scientific endeavor over the last 30 years, and others who we now consider potential threats have treated it as a military domain.

I grew up in a military town. My father served in Germany during World War II. When World War II was ended, he joined the Reserves and then was called up again in the Korean war. He spent a couple of years in Korea during the Korean war. I have his dog tags today in my office. They serve as a constant reminder of his commitment to defending our ideals and upholding our way of life here in America. It reminds me that every single woman and man in uniform in our services today do the same thing.

Today, I am humbled to represent our men and women in uniform in the United States Armed Services Committee. I take that very seriously, as I know every member does. One of my greatest honors as a member of this committee and a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, as I said, is to travel overseas. The highlight in every one of those trips is not meeting with the head of state or the head of the military or the foreign minister; it was having dinner with people from my home State who were in uniform around the world.

When President Obama was in office, the No. 1 request I heard from heads of state around the world was: We need America to reengage.

At that time, America had withdrawn. We had created a vacuum. People weren't asking us to be the world's policeman. They were asking us to basically reengage and have a seat at the table and lead again. After a decade of withdrawal from the world stage under the prior administration, America is now leading again.

President Trump is reengaged with the rest of the world. He has made it clear that America's interest comes first. When we say America first, it doesn't mean America alone. Today, our allies trust us again, and our adversaries fear us again. President Trump has also taken action to rebuild

our military after it was gutted during the prior administration. Under President Obama, spending on the military was cut 25 percent, and we saw the resulting drop in our readiness.

In the last 2 years, we have updated defense spending by \$80 billion a year. As a result, in addition, we have avoided the use of continuing resolutions in each of the last 2 years, thanks to people on both sides of the aisle—Senator LEAHY and Senator SHELBY, who are the ranking member and the chair of the Appropriations Committee—who worked diligently last year and made sure that we got defense funding done before the end of the fiscal year and without a continuing resolution.

Because of that, readiness is on the rise again in the military. Modernization efforts and rebuilding our military are underway, and our men and women in uniform are safer around the world, No. 1, and have the resources they need to carry out their mission.

I am proud of the progress that we have made in just a very short period of time. Just in the last 2 years, our readiness has dramatically improved. However, a continuing resolution of any length for fiscal year 2020 will erode and undo a lot of progress we have made just in readiness over the last couple of years.

I am really very concerned that this is a primary responsibility of ours here in the Senate and, indeed, in Congress, and it is one we have not stood up to in the past. We have got to do better than that this year.

I believe that Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, said it best when he described the impact of continuing resolutions. Since the 1974 Budget Act was put into place, Congress has used 187 continuing resolutions as a release valve to fund the government in a temporary manner.

Let me say that again, since 1974, 45 years, we have used 187 continuing resolutions. Each one of those continuing resolutions is devastating to our military in so many ways that I will get into in just a minute. Continuing resolutions are absolutely devastating to our military, both in readiness and the ability to rebuild our military. It is the most insidious thing Congress can do to our men and women in uniform. Many of us here don't even realize the damage that continuing resolutions do to our military.

I have questioned all three current service Secretaries and their chiefs of staff, both publicly and in private meetings, about the operational impacts of continuing resolutions and funding uncertainty.

Here are some of the responses:

A continuing resolution “would be like a punch in the gut,” according to ADM John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations.

A continuing resolution “would stall our progress on readiness and modernization,” said Gen. Bob Neller, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, said that the defense budget se-

quester “did more damage to the United States Air Force and our ability to defend the nation than anything our adversaries have done in the last 10 years—and we did it to ourselves.”

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper said:

Fiscal uncertainty has done a great deal to erode our readiness and hamper our ability to modernize. . . . If we do not modernize the force right now, we risk losing a future conflict against Russia or China. It's just that simple.

Finally, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer said, and this is classic:

Continuing resolutions have cost the Department of the Navy roughly \$4 billion. . . . Since 2011, we have put \$4 billion in a trash can, put lighter fluid on top of it and burned it.

I don't know how to put it more clearly than that.

CRs have a direct and immediate impact across the entire Department of Defense—from training, to readiness, to maintenance, to personnel, and, yes, to contracting.

During a CR, training must be rescheduled, scaled back, or discontinued entirely, which means our warfighters are less prepared for battle and don't have the resources to defend themselves properly when in the heat of battle.

Depot maintenance and weapons development are delayed, resulting in costly delays, less lethality, and higher costs.

Hiring and recruitment are put on pause, leaving critical gaps in workforce skill sets.

We have the development of cyber capability and space capabilities now. We are just ginning up those capabilities, and CRs absolutely devastate these young, developing capabilities.

Change-of-station moves for service members and their families are halted, creating unnecessary turmoil for families. Can you imagine that you have kids, and you are going to be deployed overseas. The timing has to be right to get your kids in schools over there. Well, if a CR happens to occur—and guess what happens around September 30. The end of our fiscal year. If your family is moving around that period of time, it could be held up because of that CR. That is very disconcerting to families already stressed by increased deployments and rapid turnarounds.

The DOD cannot start new contracts or in many cases has to cancel existing ones. That devastates the supply chain. When we look at the supply chain in the military, after the devastating disinvestment of the last administration, one of the things that have to be rebuilt is the supply chain. The consistent funding of the supply chain is critical to the long-term defense of this country, and it is one we have taken for granted and have devastated over the last decade.

Additionally, the Department of Defense has outlined hundreds of critical projects that would be disrupted or even discontinued if a current CR is

used this year. I can think of one right now. A very much in demand helicopter has been under development for the last few years. It is ready to go. It is ready to be sent to the troops in the field. Yet, if we have a CR come September 30, it will be delayed 1 full year.

We cannot allow this any longer. Clearly, CRs create inefficiencies and uncertainty that hurt the bottom line and our ability to fight. These funding disruptions weaken our strategic capability and shake the confidence and foundation of our Nation's industrial base.

Until 2018, the Department of Defense started 13 of the last 17 years under a continuing resolution. Thirteen of the last 17 years, they started their fiscal year under a continuing resolution. Fortunately, for the last 2 years, despite other funding failures of Congress, we did not have to use a CR to fund the military. That has been a major factor in boosting readiness and our reinvestment and recap efforts.

I hate to say it, but I believe we are staring down the barrel of a potential CR on September 30 this year. As we sit here tonight, there are only 25 working days between now and July 31. Why is that important? Because in the month of August, this body, along with the House, goes back to their States, and it is a work period in those States. That means we will not be able to pass appropriations bills here because we will not be here.

If we don't move this appropriations bill and get it passed by the end, I believe, of July, when we come back in September, there will be only 10 working days, legislative working days, and there is no way we are going to get it all funded in that time.

Last year, on July 31, we had only appropriated about 12½ percent of the Federal discretionary budget. We stayed here in August, to the credit of the leadership, Senator MCCONNELL. I believe that because of that, we went from 12½ percent to 75 percent funding, including the Department of Defense, and therefore we were able to avoid a continuing resolution last year, as I have said.

Other people have said that the greatest threat to our national security is our own national debt—General Mattis, Admiral Mullen. There are various other people who have said that who are in a position where they should know. I would add one thing to that that is devastating to our ability to defend this country, and that is the use of continuing resolutions.

When we look at the domain threats and the natural threats that have evolved in the world right now—China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and terrorism—I don't think any of that damages the military, potentially, as much as our inability here to provide consistent funding for our military.

During Military Appreciation Month, I can think of no higher calling than for Congress to work diligently on passing a defense appropriations bill.

First, we have to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which we are working on this week. All the subcommittees are passing their markups this week. We hope to move on that immediately. I believe that will get passed here without much controversy.

I know that leadership right now is talking about moving in a very intense manner, with a critical sense of urgency, to get this Defense appropriations bill done. I applaud those efforts. I want to support it in any way I can.

I call on everybody in this body to be supportive of making sure that we can have, for the third year in a row—this is not a partisan issue; this is about our men and women in uniform. Given that this month is Military Appreciation Month, what better time to face up to this potential and make sure that we don't have a continuing resolution come September 30 of this year. That is the least we can do for our women and men in uniform. And we can fulfill the responsibility our Founders laid out in the Declaration of Independence when they outlined those six reasons why we were coming together, and the No. 1 reason we had at that time was to provide for the security of the United States of America.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, first, before my colleague from Georgia leaves, I want to thank him for his strong statement on the fact that we have to do defense appropriations.

I know that the Presiding Officer certainly knows all about this, given her Active-Duty service on behalf of our Nation.

As he has pointed out, every service has been affected by this. Speaking for the U.S. Marine Corps, part of the Marine Caucus that we have here, and talking with Bob Neller, who is our retiring Commandant—he has pointed out specifically that they don't have enough to do—I mean, we are proud of the Marine Corps. I always say we do more with less, but this time, you can't do more with less and then less and then less, and that is precisely where we are.

I thank the Senator for making an outstanding statement. I join him in this plea on a bipartisan basis to get these appropriations bills done.

Thank you.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Madam President, I rise today, along with many of my colleagues, in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month.

We on the Senate Agriculture Committee have worked extensively on mental health issues, fighting for improved mental health services and mental health parity, especially in our rural and smalltown areas. We have made great strides over the years in improving access to mental health services and eliminating the stigma of seeking treatment. However, as we

continue to see violent tragedies around the country resulting from individuals with mental illness, or even solely looking at suicide rates, which continue to increase—let me point out that in Kansas, there were over 500 suicides in 2016 alone. If the figures were available, I am sure that would be increased, especially with the problems we have in farm country, where we are going through a very rough patch—a fifth year of prices below the cost of production. There is a lot of stress out there in farm country. All of this shows me that more can certainly be done to address the deficiencies in our current system.

Kansas has one suicide prevention lifeline crisis center, located in Lawrence, KS. That is to assist people experiencing mental health crises from the entire State. In many of our rural areas, we continue to struggle with providing adequate access to mental health services.

Those facts apply just for those patients who seek out care. Too many times, people struggling with mental health are either unaware that they can seek help, or they are simply unwilling to do so because of the stigma that is often associated with mental illness. That is why we need to take the opportunity not just this month but every day going forward to improve awareness and understanding about mental health.

The same can be said for addiction. On the Agriculture Committee, we are all proud to have played a role in the passage of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act last year to help address the opioid crisis. However, Kansas is still facing significant challenges with meth addiction. We fought the good fight to eliminate meth labs in many of our States, and now the cartels in Mexico have much more virulence—if I can use that term—with regard to meth.

I am currently working on legislation to help extend the reach of important, often lifesaving treatments for addiction to folks in our rural areas. We can improve mental and behavioral well-being while continuing to reduce the stigma associated with seeking out mental health and addiction treatment.

Additionally, having the privilege of being the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and speaking for my ranking member, Senator STABENOW, as well, you have probably heard me say that we have been in a rough patch in farm country over the past several years. That is certainly true. However, those of us who represent farm country can be more reticent to discuss the toll these troubled times take on farmers, ranchers, growers, and their families, who work tirelessly each day to produce the food and fiber for the United States and a troubled and hungry world.

Farmers, ranchers, and growers face highly demanding working conditions on a good day but more especially dur-

ing a time of lower prices. As I have indicated, it is the fifth year of prices being below the cost of production. So we see mitigation payments coming out of the Department of Agriculture.

Historically, there have been efforts made by Congress to address these concerns, including the programs that took place during the 1980s farm crisis—I was in the House of Representatives at that particular time; those were very tough times—and recognition of this issue in the 2008 farm bill.

As we began the 2018 farm bill process, we looked for opportunities to address this pressing issue, and it led to renewal of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Members on both sides of the aisle in the Capitol recognize the importance of a nationwide Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. It provides support for all producers, farmers, ranchers, and their families through partnerships with organizations in their local communities. Local communities are stepping up, but in terms of getting that network applied, that is another story.

This network recognizes the State and local organizations that have been addressing behavioral health concerns for farmers and ranchers and authorizes grants to support the programs that assist those who are in crisis, especially during this month when we are addressing this topic.

We have just heard from the distinguished Senator from Georgia about the need to avoid a CR in terms of a national defense, and that is true, but in this particular case, it is authorized, but it is subject to appropriations.

On this particular issue, to prevent suicides and mental health illness from resulting in a tragedy, not only in our cities, not only in other States, but across our rural and smalltown areas, it is exceedingly important that we fund this so that we can get the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network up and running and provide the help they really need.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

### CONFIRMATION OF DANIEL COLLINS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Daniel Collins to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. Collins had been nominated to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit over the objections of Senator HARRIS and myself. Neither Senator HARRIS nor I returned blue slips for Mr. Collins, yet the majority moved forward with his nomination, disregarding our concerns.

This vote on Mr. Collins follows on the heels of last week's vote on Kenneth Lee, another Ninth Circuit nominee who lacked blue slips from me and Senator HARRIS.

So, once again, we see the majority violating Senate norms and traditions by ignoring home-State Senators, including the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, and stacking the courts with ideologues.

This breakdown in Senate traditions is harmful to all of us, Democrats and Republicans. It is also unnecessary.

As I have highlighted before, Democratic Senators have been willing to work with the White House to find consensus picks for the circuit courts, but that willingness has been rebuffed by the Trump administration and disregarded by the majority.

The majority's decision to once again ignore blue slips is short-sighted. After all, what goes around comes around.

Senator HARRIS and I refused to return blue slips on Mr. Collins for several reasons.

I have used a bipartisan instate screening commission to vet potential nominees to California district and Ninth Circuit seats for my entire career. These are highly respected lawyers from throughout the State, and they have reviewed and recommended nominees from Democratic and Republican administrations.

My instate bipartisan commission raised concerns about Mr. Collins's rigidity, temperament, and history of taking positions in litigation for the purposes of overturning precedent and challenging legal boundaries.

The role of a judge is to be an impartial arbiter, not an advocate and not someone with an agenda, particularly an agenda of overturning precedent.

Based on this, I am concerned that Mr. Collins has not demonstrated and does not embody the characteristics that we expect of all Federal judges.

I also believe that Mr. Collins's record on women's reproductive rights, executive power, civil liberties, and criminal justice matters puts him far outside the judicial mainstream.

For example, Mr. Collins was a strong advocate for the Bush administration's use of military commissions to try enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay. He even went so far as to argue that the President's authority as Commander-in-Chief allowed him to bypass Congress and create these com-

missions without congressional approval.

Mr. Collins also wrote a law review piece in which he argued that *Miranda v. Arizona*, a longstanding Supreme Court precedent that protects the rights of individuals, should be overturned.

For the last decade, Mr. Collins has also defended numerous chemical and energy companies in lawsuits brought by homeowners, Tribes, and local governments. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits have argued that these companies contributed to climate change and its effects, such as increasing the severity of storms and causing sea levels to rise.

In several of these lawsuits, Mr. Collins argued that climate change is not even real. For example, in a case representing Shell Oil Company, Mr. Collins wrote that "climate change allegedly results from the aggregate effects of greenhouse gas emissions from billions of sources around the world accumulating in the global atmosphere over the course of centuries, and thus it cannot be attributed to . . . energy companies."

In addition, in questions for the record, he refused to acknowledge that climate change is real and that human activity contributes to it.

I understand that Mr. Collins was representing clients in these lawsuits, but he was the one who chose which arguments to make, including arguments that climate change is not real. We cannot have a judge on the Ninth Circuit who denies climate change and its impacts.

At his hearing, Mr. Collins was willing to answer questions from Republicans on his personal views, but not answer similar questions from Democrats.

For instance, when asked how he "feel[s] about the First Step Act," Mr. Collins said: "I think that the First Step Act . . . appeared to me to be a balanced approach to reform some of the sentencing provisions which seemed unduly harsh."

But when asked by Senator BLUMENTHAL whether he believed *Brown v. Board of Education* was correctly decided, Mr. Collins refused to answer.

Nominees should not answer Republican questions and evade Democratic ones, especially when it comes to answering questions about *Brown v. Board of Education*, a monumental case whose correctness cannot and should not be questioned and has been answered by previous Republican nominees, including Chief Justice Roberts.

Taken as a whole, I believe Mr. Collins is far outside the legal mainstream.

Given concerns about his temperament and commitment to upholding precedent and given the positions he has taken on executive power, criminal justice, and other matters that could come before the Ninth Circuit, I cannot support Mr. Collins.

I voted against Mr. Collins, and I urged my colleagues to do the same.

### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, on May 20, 2019, the Senate voted on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 201, Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. Due to travel delays, I missed this vote. However, I oppose confirming this nominee, and I would have voted against cloture if I were present.

### TRIBUTE TO KEANON LOWE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today I want to recognize and honor Parkrose High School coach and security guard Keanon Lowe for his heroism during the school day on May 17, 2019.

When Mr. Lowe spotted an armed student in a classroom in the northeast Portland high school, he bravely tackled the student, wrestled away the gun, and held the student until police arrived. Mr. Lowe may have saved the lives of countless students, teachers, and administrators at Parkrose.

In Mr. Lowe's own words the day after the incident, "When I signed up to be a security guard, football and track and field coach for Parkrose High School, I did so to guide and coach young people whose shoes I had once been in. I had no idea that I would one day have to put my life on the line like I did yesterday for my students."

Mr. Lowe is no stranger to the spotlight. Before becoming the football and track coach at Parkrose, Mr. Lowe was a standout football player in Oregon at Jesuit High School and then the University of Oregon, U of O, "Go Ducks!"

As an U of O alumnus, I witnessed Mr. Lowe's standout play both in Autzen Stadium in Eugene and in the 2015 national championship game against the Ohio State University.

All Ducks fans know Mr. Lowe as a champion on the field, and now all of Oregon and the country, know him as a hero off the field.

Mr. Lowe's heroics saved the day on a Friday morning just before noon. Students, teachers, and administrators at Parkrose, as well as their loved ones, are incredibly grateful that Mr. Lowe prevented what could have been a tragedy in my hometown.

Sadly, far too many schools in my State and across America have not been so fortunate in the past few decades. Gun violence in schools has essentially created a "lockdown generation" of students whose happy memories of high school dances, games, plays, and other activities jostle alongside memories of lockdown drills and, in far too many instances, violent gunmen.

Again, in Mr. Lowe's own words, "I'm blessed to be alive and extremely happy that the students are safe. I'm not sure what's next, I haven't had the time to really think about it. But I am sure I want to be a part of the solution to school gun violence."

I am grateful that Mr. Lowe prevented the worst on May 17, 2019, and welcome his commitment to be a teammate in reducing the chances of gun tragedies in every school in America.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today, I would like to honor Keanon Lowe's heroism and bravery in tackling a gunman at Parkrose High School on May 17, 2019. Mr. Lowe is known for being a top wide receiver for University of Oregon's football team and now as a popular coach of football and track and field at Parkrose High School. He also works as a security guard at the school.

On Friday, May 17, a distraught student entered a Parkrose classroom with a shotgun. Already this year, our Nation has watched children die at the hands of their armed classmates, including two young men who sacrificed their lives to stop gunmen and save their fellow students. To prevent such a tragedy, Mr. Lowe, in a tremendous act of courage, tackled the armed student and wrestled away the gun before anyone could be injured.

Mr. Lowe put his life on the line to protect our students. Mr. Lowe has not only guided students on the field, but now he has also protected them in the classroom. He will no doubt be remembered by those students for the rest of their lives as an example of selflessness and courage.

On behalf of all Oregonians, I express our deepest gratitude and admiration to Mr. Lowe, and thank him for his service to Parkrose students, every Parkrose family, and all Oregonians.

#### HONORING THE FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS OF BUTTE-SILVERBOW COUNTY, MONTANA

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I wish to honor the memory of 18 of Butte, America's finest.

Since 1892, 18 brave police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the people of Butte-Silverbow County, the most of any county in Montana.

These men put the lives of others above their own, rushing into danger to keep their community safe, and paying the ultimate sacrifice as a result.

I want to honor: William F. Jordan; Dennis W. Daly; Frederick Kranbeck; Fred A. Palin; John J. Streb; Joseph A. Freshman; Charles E. Streb; Ivan W. Lincoln; James H. Pace; Bart J. McCarthy; Joseph E. Sage; Batt Arrigoni; Jeremiah J. Murphy; Thomas O'Neill; Nicholas Aleksich; Colin McMillan; Tom Monroe; and David V. Thomas and their families and loved ones who sacrificed so much as well.

May their memories never be forgotten. May all current and future peace officers in Butte-Silver Bow, around Montana, and this Nation return home safe at the end of their watches.

#### TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA'S HEROES AND RECOGNIZING THE ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today I am incredibly honored to rise and recognize a group of 23 heroic military veterans who will travel from West Virginia this week to visit our Nation's Capital as part of the 10th Always Free Honor Flight. On the occasion of their visit, in which they will see for the first time the monuments built in their honor, I want to express my utmost gratitude to these special men and women for their extraordinary bravery and patriotism and for their noble sacrifice to help keep our country free.

I have said this time and time again: West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in this great Nation. With one of our country's highest per capita rates of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of our Nation's most patriotic States. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the Honor Flight will allow these West Virginia veterans to pay homage to their brethren at the Vietnam Wall. The 31 veterans participating in this week's Always Free Honor Flight truly embody the Mountain State's history and contributions to the safeguarding of our American freedoms.

Our special West Virginians visiting this week represent warriors from 23 to 93 years old and have traveled from all parts of our great State, from Beckley to Bluefield, Princeton to Cottageville, and many places in between. In addition to our Mountain State veterans, six veterans from Virginia and one veteran from Florida will be accompanying their West Virginia neighbors on the day-long adventure. Of the patriots attending, one served in World War II, two served in the Korean war, 10 served in the Vietnam war, one in Vietnam and Desert Storm, one served in the Cold war, one served in Desert Storm and the Gulf war, two served in the war in Afghanistan, and many others served between wars.

I would especially like to recognize our World War II veteran who will be on this honor flight—93-year-old Allen K. Walker who now lives in Beckley but is originally from the Mississippi Delta. He joined the Navy in Rosedale, MS, in 1944. He served as a seaman first class stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI. Allen is a member of our Nation's Greatest Generation, and their sacrifices and valor embody American patriotism. They fought in such a pivotal war, in an era that threatened our existence as a Nation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are losing so many of our World War II veterans, and we must show them our utmost gratitude each and every day.

As I mentioned, we will also be joined by veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, Cold, and Gulf wars. They engaged in

combat all over the world. They were Humvee mechanics, military police officers, and radio operators.

Two of our proud veterans here today served in the Korean war. One is 86-year-old Corporal Paul Clifford Lathey from Cottageville, WV. He joined the Army in 1953 in Ripley, WV. During his time in Korea, he served in the 15th Infantry, 3rd Division Fox Company, where he treated wounded soldiers in MASH units. Our other Korean war veteran is 90-year-old Sergeant David Shirley Knapp, who was in the Army from 1948–1954 and served as a combat engineer during the Korean war.

Another veteran is Charlie R. Lambert from Iaeger, WV, who served in a variety of roles during the Vietnam war. After he joined the Navy in 1970, he served in a “boots on the ground” role in Thailand, served on the flight deck of the USS *Iwo Jima*, and volunteered to be a member of the Brown Water Navy or the forces that patrol shallow inland waterways, seizing contraband and engaging with the enemy. Another brave West Virginian who served in Vietnam is Sergeant Robert Ortiz, from Premier, WV, who served as an infantryman in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division Americal.

We also have two veterans who served in two wars, both from Virginia. Sergeant Jackie Thornton of Narrows, VA, who served in the Army during both the Vietnam and Desert Storm wars, as the chaplain's assistant, as well as, Sergeant Steven R. Mitchell of Bluefield, VA, who served in the Army in both Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the Gulf war.

I would like to also specifically honor the youngest veteran we have with us today, Sergeant Austin Patrick Coleman of Bluefield, WV. He joined the Marines in Houston, TX, and served his country in Helmand Province Afghanistan as an infantryman, assisting the Afghanistan National Army. Another veteran of the war in Afghanistan here today is Michael “Doc” Atwell of Princeton, WV. Doc served in the Navy at Camp Dwyer in the Helmand Province. He was attached to the 1st Tank Battalion RCT7 as a FMF corpsman.

Showing our appreciation to those who have served is something that we should do each and every day, but today is a special day to pay tribute and thank those who have volunteered to put their lives on the line for our freedoms. The memorials our honor flight participants will visit today serve as an important reminder to us all that our freedoms and liberties come at a steep cost. However, I know our veterans will find special meaning and potentially long-lost emotions when they tour such touching sites.

This week's honor flight and the continued support of our veterans would not be possible without the dedication of so many volunteers and caregivers. I would like to thank Theresa Riggs, the JROTC Cadet from Montcalm High



School, as well as the military spouses and other family members serving as the guardians on this year's honor flight. These guardians have selflessly given their time to travel alongside our veterans all the way from Princeton, WV, to Washington, DC, to share this very special journey with them.

I also commend those in the Always Free Honor Flight Network for their dedication to providing our veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. Without the diligence and passion Dreama of Denver, president of Always Free Honor Flight Network and owner of Princeton, WV's, Little Buddy Radio, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights, many of our veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington and pay homage to the men and women they fought beside. Dreama and Pam launched the Always Free Honor Flight in 2012, and every year, they continue to make this dream a reality for many of our West Virginia veterans.

I would also like to recognize Sergeant First Class Paul Dorsey, vice president of Always Free Honor Flight and official photographer Steve Coleman, who have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

I am filled with pride every time I meet the patriots who have served our country, and I am so pleased to welcome West Virginia's most courageous veterans, who are all heroes, to Washington, DC. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in saluting them. They truly inspire us all as we are reminded of their selfless service. It is because of their bravery that all Americans enjoy the greatest liberties and freedoms in the world.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans, God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JOEL COURREGES

• Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel Courreges, a Washingtonian, a marine, and commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, upon his passing.

Joel Courreges was a man who never stopped serving his community, his State, and his country. Joel served our Nation as a marine in the Vietnam war, returning with disabilities both visible and invisible. Having seen firsthand how difficult the transition home can be, he made it his mission to smooth the path for his fellow veterans as they returned from service. Joel became the commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, in

Bremerton, WA. In this role, he not only dedicated countless hours to helping veterans file claims with the VA and making sure they could make their appointments, he even drove them himself if they couldn't get there on their own.

But that wasn't all. As Joel saw what more and more veterans were going through, he realized the system wasn't working. Too many veterans, especially those with PTSD and other wounds of war beneath the surface, were getting caught up in courts that didn't understand their unique needs and weren't prepared or designed to help them get back on their feet. Because of Joel's drive and vision, the Kitsap County Veterans Court was created, with the goal of helping the men and women who sacrificed to defend our freedoms get a hand up when they were most in need.

Having seen Joel's efforts firsthand, I know without a doubt that his dedication to public service lifted countless others, especially veterans who have given our country so much, and helped them lead the fulfilling lives they deserve. I will always be grateful to Joel for his kindness, his generosity of spirit, and his determination to make a difference. My thoughts are with his family and all those who loved him.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID FITZ-GERALD

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I wish to recognize David Fitzgerald and congratulate him on his term as the chair of the ESOP Association. David has been committed to advancing the employee ownership model in Vermont and around the country. For the last 2 years, David served as chair of the association, working to promote the interests of employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, companies across the country.

In my State of Vermont, we have seen firsthand the many benefits that employee ownership can bring to businesses and employees. Study after study has shown that employee ownership has been proven to spur employment, increase productivity, grow sales, and raise wages. During the last two recessions, companies with ESOPs were twice as likely to survive the downturn.

David has been a vital ally in the efforts to expand broad-based employee ownership and bolster middle-class jobs in our communities. As chair, David advocated for the ESOP business model and the benefits of worker ownership all across the country. I know many in the employee ownership community are so appreciative of David's energy, motivation, and empowerment. Over the last 2 years, David dedicated much of his time and energy to expanding broad-based employee ownership to help create a sustainable economy that benefits all of us.

In addition to his work as chair of the ESOP Association, David serves as a trustee for the Employee Ownership

Foundation, working to promote employee ownership. He is a leader in the Vermont employee ownership community and has been a crucial ally in our fight to expand employee ownership in our state and throughout the country. As we continue to work together to help the employee ownership model realize its true potential, I know David will continue to be an invaluable partner.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1319. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2019-2020 Marketing Year" ((7 CFR Part 985) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1320. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1321. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1322. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" ((RIN1902-AF63) (Docket No. RM19-14-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1323. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations and Government Affairs, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's April 2019 quarterly report to Congress (OSS-2019-0503); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1324. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notifica-

tion and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1325. A communication from the Vice President and Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1326. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority" (RIN0945-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1327. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Care Agreements (VCAs)" (RIN2900-AQ45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1328. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fireworks Displays, Little Egg Harbor, Beach Haven, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0283)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1329. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Illinois River, Miles 0 to 187, Grafton, IL to Peoria, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1330. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0322)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1331. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0369)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1332. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0358)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1333. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Miles

179 to 184, St. Louis, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0334)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1334. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Annual Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port of Detroit Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1336. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Special Local Regulations Update" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1337. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sail Grand Prix 2019 Race Event; San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-61. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 81

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to \$1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have also tripled, rising from \$27.5 billion in 1993 to \$91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement's new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent

the first or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mexico as a top three trading partner. Canada is Michigan's largest export market, and Mexico is Michigan's third largest export market. NAFTA has also contributed to a 300 percent increase in Michigan's agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and

Whereas, Small and medium-sized enterprises in the United States rely on trade with Canada and Mexico to support and grow their business. Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than 125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

Whereas, Trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic output. However, many of the IP-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated did not exist when the agreement was drafted. This situation has resulted in uneven and weak IP enforcement. Stronger enforcement of IP rights will encourage more foreign direct investment and increase gross domestic product; and

Whereas, The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) creates a 21st Century trade agreement for North America. The renegotiated USMCA has provisions favorable to U.S. autoworkers that would help level the playing field between U.S. and Mexican autoworkers. The updated agreement is also more beneficial to the agricultural sector than NAFTA and will offer a higher degree of certainty and stability to Michigan farmers. The new IP provisions are the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and

Whereas, A seamless transition between NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that none of the benefits in trade accomplished by the integration of the three North American economies will be lost: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the Congress of the United States to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-62. A resolution adopted by the Commissioner's Court of Grayson County, Texas, urging the United States Congress to designate the Butterfield Overland Trail as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 151. A bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-41).

## 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. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1553. A bill to repeal the debt ceiling; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1554. A bill to provide for an automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1555. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1556. A bill to provide that the rule entitled "Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance" shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1557. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1558. A bill to establish a coordinated Federal initiative to accelerate research and development on artificial intelligence for the economic and national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1559. A bill to provide standards relating to airline travel by Federal employees for official business; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1560. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax for improving the safety of fuel systems in emergency medical rotorcraft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1561. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security certain information with respect to unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1562. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obli-

gation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1563. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1564. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1565. A bill to establish a Corps of Engineers Flood Control Civilian Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1566. A bill to require information and opportunities for registration for voting and absentee ballot requests for members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing deployment overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1567. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1568. A bill to improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1570. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1571. A bill to remove fish and wildlife as an authorized purpose of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System and to make flood control the highest priority of authorized purposes of the System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1572. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1574. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a lifetime income disclosure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1575. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1576. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain contracts between health insurance plans or issuers and health care providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1578. A bill to protect the privacy of internet users through the establishment of a national Do Not Track system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1579. A bill to require Congress to budget in advance for disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1580. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve consultation by the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse with installations affected by windfarm projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1581. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to institute a 1-year waiting period before medical debt will be reported on a consumer's credit report and to remove paid-off and settled medical debts from credit reports that have been fully paid or settled, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide a timetable for verification of medical debt and to increase the efficiency of credit markets with more perfect information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1582. A bill to establish the White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1584. A bill to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for dubious marketing and distribution of opioid products and for their role in creating and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States; 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. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 214. A resolution recognizing the history and contributions of Muslims of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 215. A resolution calling for greater religious and political freedoms in Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 216. A resolution recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 217. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as "National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend" and June 2019 as "National Gun Violence Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Con. Res. 18. A concurrent resolution supporting reproductive health care in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 52

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 52, a bill to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a

negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 189

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 189, a bill to protect the privacy of users of social media and other online platforms.

S. 249

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 249, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to reduce the ability of the U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement to engage in inappropriate civil immigration enforcement actions that harm unaccompanied alien children and to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied alien children.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 466, a bill to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 513, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, 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. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency

and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to participant votes on the suspension of benefits under multiemployer plans in critical and declining status.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S.

839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to enhance the ability of Federal agencies to deliver relocation management services to the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 972

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 972, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes.

S. 988

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1045

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1045, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to permit nurses to practice in health care facilities with critical shortages of nurses through programs for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. 1235

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government.

S. 1458

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to establish a scorekeeping rule to ensure that increases in guarantee fees of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac shall not be used to offset provisions that increase the deficit.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes.

S. 1540

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1540, a bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, supra.

S. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. RES. 207

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 207, a resolution congratulating the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and



transgender Senate staff on the 15-year anniversary of the association.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Federal Campaign Cybersecurity Assistance Act of 2019—a bulky name for a bill that attempts to do a simply stated thing: protect our democracy from foreign cyber attacks. This bill allows the national campaign committees to provide much-needed cybersecurity assistance to State political parties, Federal campaign offices' staffs, and Federal candidates' personal accounts and devices.

In 2015 and 2016, hackers working for the Russian government penetrated the networks of the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The hackers also compromised the email account of Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign manager, John Podesta. The Russian government subsequently leaked and weaponized Democratic party and campaign emails in order to influence the outcome of several elections—most publicly, the presidential race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, but also

U.S. House of Representatives races in Illinois, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Hackers also targeted Republicans during the same period, but were less successful in their efforts.

The impact of Russia's hacking-enabled influence campaign was a surprise to many. However, this was not the first time that a foreign government hacked into the campaign organization of someone running to be President of the United States. Senior officials from the 2008 Obama and McCain presidential campaigns have publicly confirmed that both organizations were compromised by hackers. In an interview with NBC News 2013, Dennis Blair, who served as President Obama's Director of National Intelligence between 2009 and 2010 stated that “Based on everything I know, this was a case of political cyber-espionage by the Chinese government against the two American political parties. They were looking for positions on China, surprises that might be rolled out by campaigns against China.”

In recent years, the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and the the National Republican Congressional Committee have all been hacked, as well as the campaigns of Senators GRAHAM and MCCAIN. Both major political parties have suffered hacks, and will undoubtedly continue to be targeted by foreign governments and other sophisticated hackers.

Over the past two years, Congress has turned its attention to several weaknesses in our democracy that were exploited by Russia including the role of social media companies and longstanding flaws in paperless voting machines used in several states. While these issues have yet to be meaningfully addressed, they have, at least, been the subject of oversight hearings and legislative proposals in Congress. In contrast, Congress has yet to hold a single hearing on the vulnerability of political parties and campaigns to hacking by foreign governments, nor has anyone else in Congress introduced legislation to help defend these organizations from cyber attacks.

For the sake of the integrity of the American political process, I introduce this bill today to protect those running for office, and the organizations that support them, from cyber attacks. Russia's hacking and leaking of emails in 2016 is now well documented. Their efforts continue. If you think they aren't working towards the 2020 federal elections as hard as any cub reporter in Iowa, you'd be sadly mistaken. And they are likely NOT alone. Other hostile governments will undoubtedly seek to emulate and improve on Russia's tactics.

Congress has acted in the past to protect those running for office from serious threats. After Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, Congress authorized the Secret Service to protect Presidential and Vice Presi-

dential candidates. In extending Secret Service protection to candidates, Congress recognized that the threats to Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates required professional protection. Congress must now take action to protect candidates for Federal office—and consequently, our democracy—from another serious threat: hacking by foreign governments.

The political parties are best of the available options to provide cybersecurity to campaigns. Politicians are already dependent upon the parties for fundraising, advertising, polling, messaging, and other forms of support. Giving parties the responsibility to provide cybersecurity does not make politicians dependent on help from a new entity. Parties are also responsible to politicians they protect, moreso at least than any other government, corporate, or non-profit entity.

Quite simply, this bill gives the national campaign committees the role of the “IT Department” for state parties, campaigns, and candidates. The committees will be able to provide these entities with securely configured laptops and cellphones, professionally administered email, encrypted messaging, and collaboration software, and if necessary, hire third-party cybersecurity experts to help in the event of a successful hack.

This bill also permits the national parties to provide this assistance with money they raise in their “building fund.” The building fund is one of three supplementary accounts through which Congress permitted the national campaign committees to raise an additional \$100,000 per individual, per year, to pay for the cost of presidential nominating conventions, national party headquarters buildings, and election recounts and other legal battles.

I know that some advocates have serious concerns about the building fund and the other supplementary accounts created by Congress in 2014. I share these concerns, and have long supported bold reforms of our campaign finance system. However, the current Senate is extremely unlikely to pass legislation creating public financing of elections anytime soon, and so while we have the current system, permitting the use of money in the building fund for cybersecurity appears to be the least bad option. Most importantly, this approach does not permit the parties to raise any new funds—it merely permits a new use of money raised through the building fund.

I am not the only one to recognize the severity of the cyber threat aimed at political parties. Earlier this year, the Canadian agency responsible for government cybersecurity, the Communications Security Establishment, issued a lengthy report on threats to elections, which noted that that “Globally, political parties, candidates, and their staff remain attractive targets for cyber threat activity.” Likewise, the Maryland Board of Elections published guidance last week, recognizing

that “Campaigns are a potential cyber target,” and consequently permitted state political parties to provide additional cybersecurity assistance to campaigns.

November 2020 gets closer by the day. Congress cannot wait any longer to protect state parties, campaigns, and the candidates themselves from sophisticated cyber attacks. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to promptly act on this legislation, and to secure our democracy from cyber threats before it is too late.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1583

*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 “Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING PREVENTION ACT.

Section 302(a) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6.—

“(A) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘covered housing’—

“(I) means housing receiving Federal assistance described in paragraph (1) that was constructed prior to 1978; and

“(II) does not include—

“(aa) single-family housing covered by an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

“(bb) multi-family housing that—

“(AA) is covered by an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

“(BB) does not receive any other Federal housing assistance.

“(ii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that—

“(I) require the owner of covered housing in which a family with a child of less than 6 years of age will reside or is expected to reside to conduct an initial risk assessment for lead-based paint hazards—

“(aa) in the case of covered housing receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which the family and the

owner submit a request for approval of a tenancy or lease renewal, whichever occurs first;

“(bb) in the case of covered housing receiving public housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) or project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which a physical condition inspection occurs; and

“(cc) in the case of covered housing not described in item (aa) or (bb), not later than a date established by the Secretary;

“(II) provide that a visual assessment alone is not sufficient for purposes of complying with subclause (I);

“(III) require that, if lead-based paint hazards are identified by an initial risk assessment conducted under subclause (I), the owner of the covered housing shall—

“(aa) not later than 30 days after the date on which the initial risk assessment is conducted, control the lead-based paint hazards, including achieving clearance in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684), as applicable; and

“(bb) provide notice to all residents in the covered housing affected by the initial risk assessment, and provide notice in the common areas of the covered housing, that lead-based paint hazards were identified and will be controlled within the 30-day period described in item (aa); and

“(IV) provide that there shall be no extension of the 30-day period described in subclause (III)(aa).

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—The regulations promulgated under clause (ii) shall provide an exception to the requirement under subclause (I) of such clause for covered housing—

“(I) if the owner of the covered housing submits to the Secretary documentation—

“(aa) that the owner conducted a risk assessment of the covered housing for lead-based paint hazards during the 12-month period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside in the covered housing; and

“(bb) of any clearance examinations of lead-based paint hazard control work resulting from the risk assessment described in item (aa);

“(II) from which all lead-based paint has been identified and removed and clearance has been achieved in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684), as applicable;

“(III)(aa) if lead-based paint hazards are identified in the dwelling unit in the covered housing in which the family will reside or is expected to reside;

“(bb) the dwelling unit is unoccupied;

“(cc) the owner of the covered housing, without any further delay in occupancy or increase in rent, provides the family with another dwelling unit in the covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(dd) the common areas servicing the new dwelling unit have no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(IV) in accordance with any other standard or exception the Secretary deems appropriate based on health-based standards.

“(B) RELOCATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to provide that a family with a child of less than 6 years of age that occupies a dwelling unit in covered housing in which lead-based paint hazards were identified, but not controlled in accordance with regulations required under clause (ii), may relocate on an emergency basis and without placement on any waitlist, penalty

(including rent payments to be made for that dwelling unit), or lapse in assistance to—

“(i) a dwelling unit that was constructed in 1978 or later; or

“(ii) another dwelling unit in covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards.”.

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendments made by section 2 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 214—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 214

Whereas the millions of Muslims of the United States, immigrant and native born—

(1) compose 2 percent of the total population of the United States; and

(2) have built a vibrant community of diverse races, ethnicities, viewpoints, and backgrounds;

Whereas many African slaves brought to the Americas, including the American colonies later known as the United States, were Muslim and made innumerable contributions to the founding of the United States;

Whereas Muslims of the United States—

(1) come from a myriad of diverse cultural backgrounds; and

(2) practice their faith according to a variety of different historical schools of thought and traditions within the Sunni and Shi’a interpretations of Islam;

Whereas Muslims of the United States have long served in the Armed Forces and have fought in all major United States conflicts, from the Revolutionary War onward, with more than 5,000 Muslims serving in the Armed Forces as of April 2019;

Whereas many Muslim members of the Armed Forces have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including—

(1) Corporal Kareem Rashad Sultan Khan, who was born in 1987 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2007; and

(2) Captain Humayun Saqib Muazzam Khan, who was born in 1976 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2004;

Whereas countless Muslims of the United States contribute to the economy and well-being of the United States as—

(1) physicians;

(2) business owners;

(3) laborers;

(4) service workers;

(5) teachers engaging the next generation of people of the United States; and

(6) police officers, firefighters, and first responders saving lives every day; and

Whereas Muslims of the United States have made and continue to make important contributions to the advancement of the United States that are fundamental to the shared values, society, and culture of the United States, including—

(1) military veterans, such as—

(A) Corporal Bampett Muhamed of Virginia, who served in the Revolutionary War;

(B) Yusuf Ben Ali (also known as “Joseph Benhaley”), who served in the Continental Army under George Washington and fought with General Thomas Sumter in South Carolina;

(C) Captain Moses Osman, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was the highest ranking Muslim in that war;

(D) Corporal Sheikh Nazim Abdul-Kariem, who served in the Army during World War II at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge;

(E) Sergeant First Class Mujahid Mohammed, who served in the Army and was held as a prisoner of war during the Korean War;

(F) retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Talib M. Shareef, who now serves as imam at the Nation's Mosque in Washington, DC; and

(G) the countless other Muslims of the United States who served valiantly in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts;

(2) Yarrow Mamout, the freed African-American Muslim slave who later became one of the first shareholders of the Columbia Bank, the second chartered bank in the United States;

(3) Fazlur Rahman Khan, the famed architect and designer who designed the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center;

(4) Mohammad Salman Hamdani, the New York City Police Department cadet and Emergency Medical Technician who heroically died helping others in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001;

(5) Dr. Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and remote sensing scientist who, from 1967 to 1972, was instrumental in helping the National Aeronautics and Space Administration identify the landing sites on the Moon for the Apollo program, serving as—

(A) Secretary of the Landing Site Selection Committee for the Apollo missions;

(B) Principal Investigator of Visual Observations and Photography; and

(C) Chairman of the Astronaut Training Group of the Apollo Photo Team;

(6) noted academics and researchers, such as—

(A) Dr. Sulayman S. Nyang, professor and former chairman of the African Studies Department at Howard University;

(B) Dr. Intisar A. Rabb, professor of law at Harvard Law School and a director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School;

(C) Asifa Quraishi-Landes, comparative law expert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

(D) Zareena Grewal, American studies and religious studies scholar at Yale University;

(7) health professionals, such as—

(A) Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health;

(B) Dr. Heather Laird-Johnson, founder, president, and director of the Center for Muslim Mental Health and Islamic Psychology at the University of Southern California; and

(C) Dr. Zehra Siddiqui, who focuses on providing health care for underserved populations, including homeless individuals, immigrants, and individuals without health insurance;

(8) Olympic medalists, such as—

(A) boxer Muhammad Ali;

(B) track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad; and

(C) fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad;

(9) professional athletes, such as—

(A) basketball players Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O'Neal;

(B) football players Muhammad Wilkerson, Ameer Abdullah, and Husain Abdullah; and

(C) 2-time world heavyweight champion Hasim Shariff Rahman;

(10) religious leaders, such as Hajj Malik El Shabazz, also known as "Malcolm X", who was—

(A) an African-American Muslim imam;

(B) a civil rights activist; and

(C) a reformer;

(11) Imam Warith Deen Mohammed (born Wallace D. Muhammad), an African-American Muslim leader and theologian who—

(A) in 1992, was the first Muslim of the United States to deliver the invocation for the Senate;

(B) worked tirelessly to unite diverse Muslim communities; and

(C) is commonly referred to as "America's Imam";

(12) public servants, such as—

(A) Dr. Ahmed Hassan Zewail, who won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and was a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;

(B) Dr. Robert (Farooq) D. Crane, former Deputy Director of the National Security Council and advisor to President Richard Nixon;

(C) Zalmay Khalilzad, who served as—

(i) the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2003 to 2005;

(ii) the United States Ambassador to Iraq from 2005 to 2007; and

(iii) the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 2007 to 2009; and

(D) Adam Shakoor, the first Muslim judge in the United States;

(E) Osman Siddique, the first Muslim United States Ambassador; and

(F) Sada Cumber, the first United States Ambassador to the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

(13) elected officials, such as—

(A) Representative André Carson of Indiana;

(B) Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota;

(C) Representative Rashida Tlaib of Michigan;

(D) Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison;

(E) Virginia State Representative Sam Rasoul;

(F) Pennsylvania State Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell; and

(G) local council members, including—

(i) Aisha Wahab of Hayward, California;

(ii) Susan Dabaja of Dearborn, Michigan;

(iii) Shahid Shafi of Southlake, Texas; and

(iv) Basheer Jones of Cleveland, Ohio;

(14) entrepreneurs and business leaders, such as—

(A) Farooq Kathwari, the chairman, chief executive officer, and president of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc.;

(B) business tycoon Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars football team in the National Football League;

(C) Islamic fashion designer Lisa Vogl, founder of Verona Collection;

(D) philanthropist Zara Mohamed Abdulmajid, also known as "Iman", founder of Iman Cosmetics;

(E) Hamdi Ulukaya, the founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Chobani Greek Yogurt; and

(F) Dr. Mark Humayun, who co-invented the Argus series retina implants; and

(15) entertainers, such as—

(A) actor and comedian Hasan Minaj;

(B) Mahershala Ali, the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar;

(C) Sam Esmail, the creator of Mr. Robot; and

(D) comedian and actor Maysoon Zayid: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the historic and valuable contributions of the

Muslim community of the United States to the United States.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 215—CALLING FOR GREATER RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS IN CUBA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

### S. RES. 215

Whereas the Castro regime has used arbitrary incarcerations, harassment, and intimidation to deny basic freedoms to thousands of Cubans since the Cuban Revolution;

Whereas, in April 2019, a family was sent to prison by authorities in Cuba for homeschooling their children;

Whereas the children were enrolled in a Christian distance school in Honduras;

Whereas the families involved, which included a pastor, cited religious reasons for homeschooling their children;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has a history of arresting individuals who chose to homeschool their children and sentencing them to prison time and hard labor;

Whereas the Government of Cuba's insistence on state-controlled education is a sign of authoritarianism, enabling them to indoctrinate youth with a communist ideology;

Whereas parents have the right to teach their children free from the state indoctrination of an autocratic regime;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom formerly condemned Cuba for actions pertaining to the April 2019 imprisonment of those who homeschool their children;

Whereas the United States has instituted an embargo on Cuba in 1960;

Whereas the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 et seq.) does not permit these sanctions to be lifted until the Castro regime has been deposed and Cuba has legalized political activity and made a commitment to free and fair elections; and

Whereas, despite the 2014 Executive branch decision to normalize relations with Cuba, it is still in the power of Congress to lift an embargo: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses solidarity with the people of Cuba in their pursuit of religious freedom;

(2) calls on the Government of Cuba to release all political prisoners, including those who have been imprisoned for homeschooling their children;

(3) calls on the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to grant the Precautionary Measures requested on April 25, 2019;

(4) calls on the Government of Cuba to recognize the right of parents to teach their own children free from state communist indoctrination;

(5) calls on the Government of Cuba to institute democratic reforms, including reforms that guarantee freedom of religion; and

(6) calls for the continued implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AIR FORCE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM CONSTELLATION AND AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUOUS AVAILABILITY, ACCURACY, EFFICIENCY, ROBUSTNESS, RELIABILITY, AND RESILIENCY OF THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM CONSTELLATION

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the Global Positioning System (referred to in this preamble as “GPS”) offers both military and civilian benefits of positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Whereas the GPS constellation is managed and operated by the Air Force and consists of more than 30 satellites operating at an altitude of approximately 12,550 miles above the Earth;

Whereas GPS precision timing allows for accurate record management by major financial institutions, including detailed transaction management for large and small businesses;

Whereas GPS has proven to be an essential tool in facilitating social and economic activity around the world;

Whereas consumers overwhelmingly access GPS using a variety of platforms, such as smartphones and a wireless broadband connection;

Whereas cities leverage GPS applications to support Smart Cities initiatives that will increase service efficiency, resulting in savings in time and money for taxpayers;

Whereas first responders use GPS to enable more timely and accurate disaster response and improve situational awareness and to identify the location of 9-1-1 calls made from wireless phones;

Whereas the safety of the rail systems in the United States is improved by implementing GPS-based positive train control systems;

Whereas GPS-enabled applications and services enhance the independence of individuals with visual impairments;

Whereas marine operations depend on GPS for precise navigation as well as for determining location and measuring speed;

Whereas the land surveying and mapping sector uses GPS to produce data that is more accurate and reliable;

Whereas GPS-based time synchronization assists power and utility companies in providing efficient power transmission and distribution;

Whereas smart grid infrastructure is increasingly reliant on GPS for synchronization and system resilience;

Whereas GPS supports autonomous vehicle development by complementing embedded vehicle sensors to determine precise vehicle location and improving safety;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration relies on GPS to improve all aspects of aviation safety and efficiency, including by providing greater precision and accuracy in all phases of flight;

Whereas GPS is also essential for enabling the Next Generation Air Transportation system;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration relies on GPS to improve aviation safety by synchronizing reporting of hazardous

weather with 45 Terminal Doppler Weather Radars; and

Whereas economic contributions by GPS include the following:

(1) In 2013, GPS provided economic benefits with a mid-range estimated value of approximately \$68,700,000,000 or 0.4 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States.

(2) The Department of Homeland Security identifies GPS as essential to 14 of the 16 industries that are classified as part of the nation's critical infrastructure.

(3) In 2013, GPS-enabled precision agriculture was estimated to save grain farmers 10 to 15 percent in operating costs and purchased inputs and the broad economic benefit of precision agriculture in grain farming was estimated to provide a mid-range benefit of \$13,700,000,000.

(4) In 2013, GPS-enabled surveying was estimated to produce a mid-range economic benefit of \$11,600,000,000.

(5) Globally, 3,600,000,000 Global Navigation Satellite System devices were in use in 2014, 450,000,000 of which were in North America.

(6) In 2012, the Boston Consulting Group estimated that the geospatial services ecosystem, which is supported by GPS, drove \$1,600,000,000,000 in revenues and \$1,400,000,000,000 in cost savings throughout the United States economy.

(7) GPS-enabled internet publishing, broadcasting, and search portals accounted for \$170,781,000,000 in revenue in 2017 and supported over 275,000 jobs in 2017.

(8) GPS enables location-based services that will enhance the over \$568,470,000,000 app economy, supporting an estimated 5,744,481 jobs across the United States in 2018.

(9) GPS has proven to be essential to the foundation of the ridesharing industry accessed on smartphones, valued by one estimate to be over \$61,000,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation;

(2) the valuable contributions made by the Department of Transportation in coordinating interactions with the civil users of the Global Positioning System; and

(3) the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 7 THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEKEND” AND JUNE 2019 AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 217

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than—

(1) 36,000 individuals are killed and 100,000 individuals are injured by gunfire;

(2) 12,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving firearms;

(3) 22,000 individuals commit suicide by using firearms; and

(4) 500 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas, by 1 count, in 2018 in the United States, there were—

(1) 340 mass shooting incidents in which not fewer than 4 people were killed or wounded by gunfire; and

(2) 103 incidents in which a gun was fired in a school or college;

Whereas gun violence typically escalates during the summer months;

Whereas nearly 2,900 children and teens are killed by gun violence every year;

Whereas more than 6,300 people in the United States under the age of 25 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago while standing in a park;

Whereas, on the first weekend of June 2019, to recognize the 22nd birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and wear orange in tribute to—

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas June 2019 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2019 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend”, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on June 7 through June 9, 2019;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

## S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) upholds the constitutional right to privacy, including in health care decisions and the right to access abortion care;

Whereas *Roe v. Wade* demonstrates quality legal reasoning and is consistent with related precedent since it was based on sound legal principles first established in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) and *Eisenstadt v. Baird* (1972), and repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, including in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015);

Whereas the facts that have developed since *Roe v. Wade* was decided reaffirm that people of the United States support the right to choose, that abortion is a medically safe procedure, and that access to reproductive health care provides women with greater economic opportunities;

Whereas the rights established in *Roe v. Wade* have been relied upon in this country for almost 50 years;

Whereas a majority of people of the United States support access to abortion care;

Whereas, while the State of Alabama, the State of Georgia, and other States passed laws in 2019 that clearly seek to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and are unconstitutional; meanwhile in 2018 there were over 60 bills introduced in more than 21 States to protect and expand access to reproductive care;

Whereas low-income individuals and women of color are disproportionately impacted by restricting access to abortion care; and

Whereas when States have enacted laws in violation of *Roe v. Wade*, health clinics close and health care services disappear: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress supports efforts to—

(1) ensure that all women can access comprehensive, unbiased information and make their own health care decisions;

(2) promote preventive health care services for women;

(3) ensure that all women have access to comprehensive, affordable health care that includes pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management, family planning services, abortion care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care; and

(4) improve women's access to reproductive health care, regardless of the State in which they reside.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate

on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOW

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is

authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs Speth of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AIR FORCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 216, 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. 216) recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 216) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Nielsen nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Nielsen, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations, in the order listed, at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this month I join Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa and a bipartisan group of my colleagues to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the millions of foster parents and children in foster care around the country. More importantly, it is a call to action. We simply leave too many children behind.

Poverty should never be the reason children are separated from their parents. There is no dignity in removing children from their mothers or fathers because they don't have adequate housing or affordable childcare or jobs that allow them to take time off when their children get sick.

Right now, child welfare agencies are overwhelmed by the number of children who enter the system, and the addiction crisis just makes it worse. In Ohio, parents' substance abuse is listed as one of the causes for one-third of all children who enter the system. Children who are already in the system stay there longer, especially teenagers. We have to do better than that.

Last year, we passed and the President signed the bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, which is an important first step. It has the potential to change our child welfare system over time. Yet the changes the Family First Prevention Services Act requires ultimately have to be made at the State level. We have to make sure that States have the support they need and that they actually do what the law requires.

That is why, this month, I introduced the Family First Transition and Support Act—to help all States transition to the family first era. It would provide funding for States to recruit and retain quality foster parents who meet the needs of children. Our bill would expand funding for kinship support services, which would help family members who raise children pay for essential needs and services, like childcare, transportation, and other things.

This is especially important with the rise in having other family members raise the children because of the addiction crisis. In Ohio, Arizona, and all over this country, we have seen a big increase in there being grandparents who raise grandchildren, in large part, because the children's parents have had addiction issues or have actually died of overdoses.

The grandparents with the grandchildren face unique challenges and don't often qualify for the same support as foster parents. It means that they are going back to work. It may mean that a 68-year-old grandmother who lives on a pension and thought she was retired has to go back to work in order to raise this child to make enough money or has to take money out of her retirement savings.

Relatives' care is vital to keeping kids safe at home and in their communities. Our bill would provide real funding to get these grandparents and other family members more support. There is no formula here, but most of the time, it is better if grandparents can raise these children rather than send them to foster parents, who are strangers. The grandparents, obviously, know and love the children. It doesn't mean foster parents can't, of course, but so often the grandparents are financially challenged.

I get letters all the time from Ohioans who tell their stories and ask us to support these family members.

A man from Richland County, where I grew up, wrote to me saying:

I ask that family members be given the same financial aid as foster parents. Most of the family members are grandparents or great-grandparents on fixed income with little or no money.

Another woman from the county just south, Knox County, south of Mansfield wrote:

I am a grandmother raising my grandson. He is 15 years old, a great kid, and has been living with me almost all his life. I lost my beautiful daughter to an overdose.

She was raised in a good home, but was affected by this disease for the past 9 years. We loved her and miss her every day.

This letter goes on:

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful [conditions]—

Just think of that. She is raising a grandson when her daughter died of an overdose.

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful circumstances, often don't know what to do.

Thank you so much for getting this program and money to support it on board.

Grandparents do so much, without much help.

Last year we were able to break through the partisanship and get the Family First Act signed into law. This bill is the commonsense next step.

This Foster Care Month, I hope that my colleagues will live up to their talking points about supporting children and families. We hear every day here how much we support children and families. Well, do something about it. Work with us to pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA J. FEUERSTEIN, RETIRED.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE WILLIAM D. QUARLES, JR., RETIRED.

DIANE GUJARATI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOHN GLEESON, RESIGNED.

ERIC ROSS KOMITTEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE ERIC NICHOLAS VITALIANO, RETIRED.

RACHEL P. KOVNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE CAROL BAGLEY AMON, RETIRED.

LEWIS J. LIMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE PAUL A. CROTTY, RETIRED.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE MARY M. LISI, RETIRED.

MARTHA MARIA PACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN W. DARRAH, RETIRED.

MARY M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE AMY J. ST. EVE, ELEVATED.

STEVEN C. SEEGER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JAMES B. ZAGEL, RETIRED.

JOHN L. SINATRA, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM M. SKRETNY, RETIRED.

MARY KAY VYSKOCIL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE LORETTA A. PRESKA, RETIRED.

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

JAMES J. HIGGISTON, OF MARYLAND  
BOBBY G. RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MELISSA MCINNIS, OF COLORADO  
BRITTANY BANTA, OF FLORIDA  
CAROLINE CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN HETTMELMAN, OF NEW YORK  
CARLA MENENDEZ MCMAHUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TAMARIND MURRIETTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW POOLE, OF ILLINOIS  
GEOFFREY PARISH, OF TEXAS  
GARY RAND II, OF MARYLAND  
KENNIA SOMERVILLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KAREN BALLARD, OF NEVADA  
MARIXELL GARCIA, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



UCHENNA NNAYELUGO AGU, OF VIRGINIA  
DONALD R. ALDERMAN, OF WASHINGTON  
FOTINI D. ALI, OF NEW YORK  
MUSAAD ALLABAN, OF VIRGINIA  
SIREE D. ALLERS, OF TEXAS  
MARK JOSEPH ANANKA, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ALEXANDRA HILDE ANASTASSOPOULOS, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID R. ANDERSON, OF TEXAS  
GEOFFREY S. ANDREWS, OF NEW YORK  
MICHAEL C. ANTHONY, OF OHIO  
GABRIEL A. ARCE-YEE, OF NEW JERSEY  
MERY J. ARCILA, OF FLORIDA  
NATALIA ARENAS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
GREGORY RONALD ARSENAULT, OF MARYLAND  
ALEJANDRA BAEZ, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ROBERT BERNARD BAKER, OF VIRGINIA  
THAD B. BALL, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
LINDSAY WADSWORTH BECKS, OF VIRGINIA  
ARSHIA BEHNAM, OF CALIFORNIA  
CARLSKY BELIZAIRE, OF NEW YORK  
JORY APTON BENTLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK T. BERNAL, OF NEW YORK  
BARNABAS P. BIRKELAND, OF MINNESOTA  
MATTHEW T. BISHOP, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH L. BITTENBENDER, OF NEW YORK  
EMAN BLAIR, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM C. BLAKEMAN, OF MARYLAND  
TIMOTHY DAVID BOLL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALEJANDRO JAVIER BONILLA, OF VIRGINIA  
JONATHAN W. BRANDS, OF VIRGINIA  
EVA NICOLE BROWN, OF VIRGINIA  
CAROLINE LOUISE BURNS, OF VIRGINIA  
JAREK TAYLOR BUSS, OF WYOMING  
NATALIE A. CAKE, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID JAMES CALLEN, OF VIRGINIA  
LUCAS BIRD CALTRIDER, OF IOWA  
YANIQUE JODIE-AN CAMPBELL, OF NEW JERSEY  
ROWAN ALEXANDER CANTER, OF TEXAS  
EVAN PAUL CARAVELLI, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM JOHN CARBALLO, OF MARYLAND  
MICHELLE D. CARTER, OF NEVADA  
MICHAEL M. CATLETT, OF VIRGINIA  
ABDULLAH A. CHENZAI, OF VIRGINIA  
STANLEY ROMAN CHRZANOWSKI, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHIAS FRANKLIN CLARK, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL THOMAS CLARK, OF VIRGINIA  
MELISSA MARIE CLUFF, OF VIRGINIA  
ZACHARY DAVID COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY T. COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DANIEL I. COMBS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DAWN COOPER, OF VIRGINIA  
TIFFANY MARIE COX, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
BETH A. DALTON, OF VIRGINIA  
AFRICA DANGERFIELD, OF VIRGINIA  
LUKE W. DAVIS, OF NEW YORK  
MEREDITH MORGAN DAVIS, OF OHIO  
BLAKE A. DAWGERT, OF TEXAS  
BENJAMIN DOWNEY DENTON, OF VIRGINIA  
ROY M. DICHARRY III, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREW W. DILTS, OF CALIFORNIA  
JACOB DOUGLAS DINERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
VANESSA L. DOHNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SARAH ELIZABETH DOOLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHRYN M. DRENNING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JASON SCOTT DUPUY, OF VIRGINIA  
ALAN W. EATON, OF FLORIDA  
LUKE DOUGLAS EDEN, OF VIRGINIA  
ALYSSA M. EGO, OF VIRGINIA  
VERONICA M. ELKINS, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM B. EVANS, OF ILLINOIS  
CANDACE TAMIKA FARVE, OF VIRGINIA  
SABRINA C. FECHER, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
NICOLE LEIGH FINK, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID BERNDON FITZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TERRI LOUISE FOSTER, OF VIRGINIA  
CRAIG ALEXANDER FRANCO, OF MARYLAND  
REED THURMAN FRY, OF VIRGINIA  
JATNNA M. GARCIA, OF NEW YORK  
TIAIRA MARIE GARY, OF MARYLAND  
DEREK TIMOTHY GER, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL D. GIBBS, OF TEXAS  
TIMOTHY J. GIBSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JACOB ERIC GJESDAHL, OF WASHINGTON  
VICTORIA E. GLYNN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RICHARD L. GOODRICH, OF WEST VIRGINIA  
LEON I. GOODWIN III, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
JESSICA KIM GORMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREA C. GORTON, OF WASHINGTON  
CHRISTOPHER B. GOSSELIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JASON GOULD, OF VIRGINIA  
AMY MARIE GRADIN, OF OREGON  
RUSSELL R. GRAEF, OF VIRGINIA  
LAURA A. CRIDER, OF FLORIDA  
TRACIE J. GRIECO, OF WASHINGTON  
PETER TYLER GRUTIS, OF VIRGINIA  
CESAR I. GUERRERO, OF VIRGINIA  
EBRAHIM M. HABIB, OF VIRGINIA  
SONIA HAERIZADEH, OF CONNECTICUT  
NORVA G. HALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
RUSSELL HATHAWAY, OF NEW JERSEY  
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ORION F. HENNINGSGAARD, OF NEW MEXICO  
WILLIAM J. HERTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MARC H. HILDWEIN, OF KENTUCKY  
BENJAMIN ELI HINTON, OF VIRGINIA  
AMELIA M. HINTZEN, OF TENNESSEE  
TANYA HOPKINS, OF NEW JERSEY  
ERIC J.R. HOULE, OF VIRGINIA  
DYLAN SIMON HUNZIKER, OF MISSOURI  
STEPHEN J. HURLEY, OF MARYLAND  
AZER A. IBADOV, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIYA ILYAS, OF VIRGINIA  
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MELISSA E. JACKSON, OF MISSOURI  
SAHIL JAIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BENJAMIN O. JALOWSKY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JACOB AARON JARRARD, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES JOSEPH JEFFERY, OF VIRGINIA  
KEITH ALLAN JENKINS, OF VIRGINIA  
TYLER LELAND JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ABBEY LYNN JORSTAD-CANNATA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ROBIN MATHEW JOSEPH, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHERINE E. JUDD, OF VIRGINIA  
SAMANTHA H. JUSTER, OF NEBRASKA  
KAVITA KANNAN, OF VIRGINIA  
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SHANE B. KELBLEY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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PRIYA M. KNUDSEN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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ASHLEY EILEEN LEVATO, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH B. LEVIT-SHORE, OF NEW YORK  
JANINE THERESE LEWIS, OF FLORIDA  
CODY W. LIDSTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
EMILY MARIE LISANTI, OF VIRGINIA  
DOMINIC LISANTI III, OF VIRGINIA  
LAURA HELEN LIVELY, OF VIRGINIA  
GRANT R. LIVINGSTON, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID JOSHUA LUBITZ, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINE D. LYONS, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH WILLIAM MAERTZ, OF CALIFORNIA  
MIRIAM MAGDALENO, OF VIRGINIA  
KEITH JARED MAIDEN, OF VIRGINIA  
OLIMAR E. MAISONET-GUZMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY F. MALCOLM, OF MARYLAND  
JOSEPH MALONE, OF VIRGINIA  
NATALIA J. MANN, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM E. MARSH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CLIFTTON D. MARTIN, OF MICHIGAN  
FATIMAH Z. MARTIN, OF NEW MEXICO  
REBEKAH VERMIL MARTINEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
GABRIEL J. MASSINE, OF COLORADO  
MEGAN N. MATTTSON, OF TEXAS  
CHRISTOPHER K. MAUGHAN, OF UTAH  
CAITLIN ELIZABETH MAXWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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MORGAN LINDSAY MCCORD, OF VIRGINIA  
RUSSELL W. MCCRARY, JR., OF FLORIDA  
LITHEA R. MCFARLANE, OF CALIFORNIA  
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DANIEL MOON, OF VIRGINIA  
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ANTHONY J. MOTISI, OF COLORADO  
MITCHELL DEAN MUHLHEIM, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL PATRICK MURPHY, OF ALASKA  
JEREMY R. MURRAY, OF OREGON  
TRUONG-CIANG THI NGUYEN, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDER M. NOPPE, OF WISCONSIN  
ELIZABETH A. NOVY, OF ILLINOIS  
OBIO P. NTA, OF VIRGINIA  
SUZIE G. OH, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSICA R. O'NEIL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALEX M. OSBORNE, OF CALIFORNIA  
KIERA E. O'SHEA, OF VIRGINIA  
DEBORAH DAI-WEN OU-YANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TAYA L. OWENS, OF TENNESSEE  
IAN N. PARKER, OF CALIFORNIA  
JACKIE L. PARKER, OF GEORGIA  
LINDSEY LEE PASSIS, OF VIRGINIA  
ORDAN J. PEARSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
AMY ELIZABETH PERKINS, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER PERRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KRISTEN CHELSEY PERRY, OF VIRGINIA  
MAURA M. PFEIFER, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRISTOPHER B. PHELAN, OF KANSAS  
MATTHEW DAVID PHILLIPS, OF ILLINOIS  
ANNA CHRISTINA PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA  
PIOTR BOGDAN PICZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTINA L. POWELL, OF MARYLAND  
JUSTIN C. POWERS, OF VIRGINIA  
RYAN G. PRINZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FATIMA Z. QURAISHI, OF NEW YORK  
ERIC J. RAHMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NADIA C. RAMIREZ DOMINGUEZ, OF FLORIDA  
MEG M. RAPELYE, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINA MARY REED, OF VIRGINIA  
TYRONE O. REEDER, OF VIRGINIA  
MIGUEL JUAN RIVERA, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
JAIME ROSADO MIRANDA, OF VIRGINIA  
ALFRED NASHABET, OF MARYLAND  
SARAH E. SANDERSON, OF MICHIGAN  
JUSTIN K. SAYAKAR, OF CALIFORNIA  
SAMANTHA LEE SANTIAGO, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN RICHARD SAWYER, OF VIRGINIA  
CIERRA GENEVA SAYLOR, OF GEORGIA  
GEORGE BRUNO SCHMICK, OF VIRGINIA  
DIANA R. SCHMIDT, OF VIRGINIA  
ELLEN E. SCHOLL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RACHAEL ELIZABETH SCHOLZ, OF VIRGINIA  
HELEN S. SHAW, OF TEXAS  
TAMARA N. SHAYA HOFFMANN, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW D. SHEREN, OF NEW JERSEY  
MARIA ANNE SHIRLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
JILLIAN T. ST JOHN, OF TEXAS

SARAH E. STRANEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ELIZABETH A.F. STRIMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LEYTH SWIDAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
REBECCA I. TEHAN, OF OHIO  
LINSTON W. TERRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GEOFFREY F. THOMAS, OF NEW YORK  
JACOB DANIEL THOMPSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LISA MICHELE THOMPSON, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM L. THRASHER, OF VIRGINIA  
GIVI TIBANELI, OF CALIFORNIA  
LISA MICHELLE TONGREN, OF VIRGINIA  
DANIEL A. TOUBOLETS, OF VIRGINIA  
KIMBERLY T. TRIGNANO, OF FLORIDA  
MICHAEL J. TUBMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CRAIG BRIGHAM TUCKER, OF VIRGINIA  
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STUART M. TURNER, OF TENNESSEE  
CHRISTINE L. VALENTINE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DAVID WILLIAM VARVEL, OF WASHINGTON  
ANNE L. VERDEROSA, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
NICOLE D. VERGARA, OF VIRGINIA  
KEMPER S. WAGNER, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHRISTOPHER J. WARNKE, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL J. WHITE, OF VIRGINIA  
MALCOLM J. WHITEHEAD, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRIA MARIE WHITLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHERINE EPPHIMER WHITLOW, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER S. WILLFORD, OF IDAHO  
LAURA M. WILLIFORD, OF GEORGIA  
MICHAEL J. WINLAW, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK WOODS, OF VIRGINIA  
MILES WRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA  
GEORGE ROBERT WYSE, OF VIRGINIA  
MARINA A. YAKHNIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KATHERINE LUNDAY YATES, OF TEXAS  
HERMILA HAILEMARIA YIPTER, OF NEVADA  
MARY E. YOU, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JAIME ALBER ZEA CIFUENTES, OF NEW JERSEY  
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:  
JENNIFER ANN AMOS, OF TEXAS  
DANIEL L. ANGERMILLER, OF TEXAS  
MICHAEL P. ARDAIOLO, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
VANESSA L. ARNESS, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDER C. AUGUSTINE-MARCELL, OF TEXAS  
LAUREN E. BARROW, OF FLORIDA  
JAMES C. BAYNE, OF FLORIDA  
CHRISTOPHER BLINKY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
IVAN G. BOEKELEHEIDE, OF CALIFORNIA  
JENNIFER B. BOOKBINDER, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA D. BULL, OF FLORIDA  
JEFFREY S. CAMPBELL, OF FLORIDA  
GRACE C. CARROLL, OF FLORIDA  
OLIVER S. CASS, OF NEW YORK  
KYLE R. CASSILY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JULIAN E. CIAMPA, OF COLORADO  
MATTHEW M. CIESIELSKI, OF INDIANA  
HAZEL M. CIPOLLE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JAMES O. COKER II, OF FLORIDA  
CHERYL R. COLLINS, OF VIRGINIA  
APRIL L. CONWAY, OF GEORGIA  
SUSAN S. COPELAND, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
RUSSELL J. CORNELIA, OF TEXAS  
JOHN DAVID CRAWFORD, OF TEXAS  
DANIEL S. CULLOP, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK SHERIDAN CUNNINGHAM, OF WASHINGTON  
BRIAN A. DITTO, OF CALIFORNIA  
KIMBERLY A. EGGERTON, OF OHIO  
PAUL DAVID JO ELY, OF OREGON  
EMILY G. ENRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA  
ANATOLE FAYKIN, OF NEW YORK  
SCOTT M. FICKLIN, OF IDAHO  
JOHN ROBERT FORCE, OF CALIFORNIA  
EVAN W. FOX, OF HAWAII  
ANDREW R. FREEMAN, OF NEBRASKA  
LOYD D. FREEMAN, OF TENNESSEE  
HENRY YU-HANG FUNG, OF FLORIDA  
ADELITO N. GALE, OF CALIFORNIA  
AMPARO GARCIA, OF TEXAS  
GREGORIO W. GONZALES, OF TEXAS  
ALEXANDER J. GOULD, OF VIRGINIA  
CHASE J. GUINN, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY R. HALE, OF CALIFORNIA  
ROSEMARY N. HIGGINS, OF TENNESSEE  
WILLIAM J. HUSSEY, OF TEXAS  
WILLIAM J. GARRETT JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN J. JUNGWIWATTANAPORN, OF NEW YORK  
BENJAMIN E. KALT, OF FLORIDA  
DAVID A. KIERSKI, OF CALIFORNIA  
TIMOTHY M. KLUCK, OF NEW JERSEY  
KYLE W. KONRAD, OF VIRGINIA  
LAUREN A. KRETZ, OF FLORIDA  
ABIGAIL C. LACKMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KELLY S. LAURITZEN, OF TEXAS  
KELLY KWANG LEE, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN R. LINGEMAN, OF NEW YORK  
AARON BARNARD LUCE, OF CALIFORNIA  
BRYAN C. LUPTON, OF VIRGINIA  
LYNNE MADNICK, OF MARYLAND  
STEPHEN A. MANING, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD WILLIAM MATTON, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
KEVIN M. MCOWEN, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
KIRSTEN A. MICHENER, OF CALIFORNIA  
PAUL D. MIGNANO, OF VIRGINIA  
ANGELA M. MORO, OF TEXAS  
DANIEL C. MUFFLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JONAH A. NEUMANN, OF NEW YORK  
LAGRETTA D. NICKLES, OF FLORIDA  
JOHN P. ORAK, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DANIEL JOSEPH O'ROURKE, OF FLORIDA

MARIDELA M. ORTIZ, OF TEXAS  
EROL OZAKCAY, OF CALIFORNIA  
JESSICA N. POWERS-HEAVEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KIRBY S. REILING, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT A. RISNER, OF IDAHO  
CHAD R. ROEDEMEIER, OF NEW YORK  
DAVID BRIAN ROSENBLUM, OF FLORIDA  
SHARON A. RYAN, OF CALIFORNIA  
DANA S. SANDERS, OF WEST VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER MARIE SCHUETT, OF FLORIDA  
CATHERINE R. SEAGRAVES, OF OKLAHOMA  
ELIZABETH M. SMITH, OF NEW JERSEY  
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SHANE SPELLMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
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FREDRIC N. STOKES, OF CONNECTICUT  
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JEFFREY TANG, OF VIRGINIA  
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DEVON E. VAN DYNE, OF WASHINGTON  
JOSE M. VEGA, OF TEXAS  
ERIC T. VOGEL, OF FLORIDA  
REBECCA WALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
RAYMOND E. WELCH, JR., OF NEW YORK  
KELLY R. WOOD, OF TEXAS  
WALID ZAFAR, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

SUSAN PARKER-BURNS, OF MARYLAND  
TRACY E. ROBERTS-POUNDS, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JAY P. WILLIAMS, OF FLORIDA  
JAMES C. CRAWFORD, OF TENNESSEE  
MICHAEL L. MAHONEY, OF WASHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ALLISON MARGARET BARTELS, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH ALLISON BEDENBAUGH, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH N. LEDROUT, OF CALIFORNIA  
ANDREW BRYAN BESSLER, OF VIRGINIA  
KURT L. BEURMANN, OF FLORIDA  
PAUL MICHAEL BLEAU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CAROLYN D. BLUE, OF FLORIDA  
STEVEN EDWARD WILLIAM BOUGHTON, OF VIRGINIA  
MEGHAN ROSE BRESLIN-JEWER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MONICA BERNADETTE BRINN, OF VIRGINIA  
SPENCER ALLAN CAIN, OF VIRGINIA  
TRAVIS CRAIG CALDWELL, OF VIRGINIA  
TIMOTHY D. CAMPBELL, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIA G. CANTU-RAMACIOTTI, OF TEXAS  
ADRIENNE BRENNIA CAREY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

YUTHAKORN CHAIMONGKOL, OF ILLINOIS  
SUMIKO NOELLE CHAMBERS, OF VIRGINIA  
ALI RAFI CHAUDREY, OF MARYLAND  
ANNE KARI CLARE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GRACE B. CLIGG, OF VIRGINIA  
KAREN MARIE COULSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
JESSE LEE DAVEY, OF WASHINGTON  
SASCHA M. DAVIS, OF TEXAS  
EDWARD W. DENNY, OF TEXAS  
HANNEKE DERKSEN, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMILLE Y. DOCKERY, OF VIRGINIA  
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RAYMOND J. DRISCOLL II, OF VIRGINIA  
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CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM DRUCE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
ZACHARY AUSTIN DUNN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MELISSA KAY DURHAM, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER GEORGE FAKOURY, OF MISSOURI  
VINCENT C. FELLONE, OF TEXAS  
JOSEPH HERNDON FERGUSON, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW LEIGH FLINN, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIC S. FRENKIL, OF TEXAS  
NATASHA PASTORA GHENT-RODRIGUEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ENKELEJDA D. GJINI, OF MICHIGAN  
COLIN ANDREW GRIFIN, OF VIRGINIA  
ONATHAN RYAN GRILLI, OF VIRGINIA  
FAIK MESUT HALICI, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH DOHYUN HAN, OF VIRGINIA  
GEORGE S. HARRISON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
HANNAH ALYSE HESH, OF MARYLAND  
ALYSON G. HIRATA, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GERALD ERIC HORTON, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN JOSEPH HORVERS III, OF VIRGINIA  
LURA KENNEDY HUGHES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ANTHONY VITO INTRAVAIA, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIE E. JONES, OF VIRGINIA  
RAVI M. KANERIYA, OF NEW JERSEY  
MARINA E. KELLY, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM A. KENDRICK, OF VIRGINIA  
FREDERICK K. KESSLER, OF VIRGINIA  
JON CHRISTOPHER KING, OF VIRGINIA  
NIKHLI LAKHANPAL, OF GEORGIA  
REED DAVID GEORGE LANGERUD, OF MINNESOTA  
MELISSA ANN LATHAM, OF VIRGINIA  
SANDRA C. LEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WENDY ELIZABETH LEITNER, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDER G. LEWIS, OF VERMONT  
MANDY SUB LEWIS, OF VERMONT

MATTHEW D. MADDEN, OF GEORGIA  
DAVID W. MAHER, OF NEBRASKA  
ERIC MALDONADO, OF FLORIDA  
GREGORY ALLEN MALY, OF VIRGINIA  
STANLEY R. MARQUEZ, OF NEW YORK  
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MARCELLE S. O'HALLORAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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DIEGO ISMAEL PIMENTEL, OF TEXAS  
KATHERINE LEE PLEMONS, OF TEXAS  
MARGARET ANNA RAY, OF TEXAS  
DANIEL MARK REBACK, OF NEW JERSEY  
JUAN M. REYES, OF TEXAS  
ROBERT STEPHEN RICKS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JENNIFER LYNN RINGENBACH, OF VIRGINIA  
REBECCA B. ROLFE, OF NEW JERSEY  
HIDEKI FRANK ROSE, OF VIRGINIA  
LAUREN MICHELLE RYAN, OF ILLINOIS  
DAVID VEJAI SADOO, OF VIRGINIA  
ANNE JEFFREY SAVAGE, OF VIRGINIA  
RAMI H. SAYED, OF COLORADO  
KATHERINE R. SCHEIDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANDREW RUSSELL SHAW, OF FLORIDA  
WILLIAM NICHOLAS SHELTON, OF VIRGINIA  
SYDNEY A. SKOV, OF CALIFORNIA  
ANDREA RACHEL SMITH, OF VIRGINIA  
BRANDON ADAM SOLARANA, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK K. R. STACY, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREA M. TAPMEYER, OF MISSOURI  
NICOLE LEA THIER, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW ALLAN THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND  
JEREMY E. TIDWELL, OF TENNESSEE  
MONICA KATHERINE TORRES, OF VIRGINIA  
SADE L. TUCKETT, OF NEW YORK  
STEVEN RANDAL TULLY, OF VIRGINIA  
EMMET C. TUOHY, OF NEW JERSEY  
DAMIEN A. VRIGNON, OF FLORIDA  
DAVID MONROE WAIKART, OF MARYLAND  
NICHOLAS COLEMAN WALLAR, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN K. WHEELER, OF COLORADO  
EILEEN M. WILLINGHAM, OF VIRGINIA  
SAVANNAH K. L. WILSON, OF MARYLAND  
BENJAMIN LOGAN WOODARD, OF VIRGINIA  
YANG Q. ZHOU, OF NEW YORK

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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LISA N. ANDONOVSKA, OF VIRGINIA  
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DANIEL J. BEAUCHAMP, OF ARIZONA  
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SHARON M. CYR, OF NEVADA  
SHAINA YUZZY DAVILA, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
BROOKE C. DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA  
LYNCOLE W. FENY, OF VIRGINIA  
LINNETTE D. FRAGER, OF GEORGIA  
JOSEPH FREEMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RAJANI M. GHOSH, OF MARYLAND  
NORA P. GORDON, OF OHIO  
HERMES R. GRULLON, OF NEW YORK  
SHEENA R. HALL, OF MARYLAND  
ADAM R. HENNINGS, OF MINNESOTA  
DONNA M. HERNANDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA  
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KALISHA D. HOLMES, OF MARYLAND  
KENYA J. JAMES, OF NEW YORK  
ALENA Y. JOSEPH, OF MARYLAND  
MADELINE L. KOCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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JESSICA M. KUHN, OF IDAHO  
CANDICE MELINDA LAPLANTE, OF WISCONSIN  
DAVID S. LAWLER, OF NEW MEXICO  
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GARVEY N. PIERRE, OF NEW YORK  
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SARAH E. WARDWELL, OF FLORIDA  
COLLIN WEBSTER, OF NEVADA  
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KELLEY M. WHITSON, OF MARYLAND  
JACOB A. WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
LYNDSKY K. YOSHINO-SPENCER, OF NEW YORK

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KATIE A. COLLINS, OF FLORIDA  
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JACKIE H. MEEKER, OF WYOMING  
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MARIBEL VASQUEZ MOLINA, OF NEW YORK  
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JONATHAN C. NWOSU, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
GAI A. NYOK, OF WASHINGTON  
LANE H. OGAWA, OF NEVADA  
CHIGOZIE C. OKOCHA, OF COLORADO  
ABIGAIL A. OLVERA, OF TEXAS  
AYESHA QUIRKE, OF FLORIDA  
TRUDE E. RAIZEN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MARJORIE JH RAPP, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SARAH A. ROHN, OF VIRGINIA  
EMMETT E. SAPP, OF WASHINGTON  
STEPHEN H E SCHLIEMAN, OF COLORADO  
CLINT M. SHOEMAKE, OF OKLAHOMA  
TORI P. STEPHENS, OF OHIO  
BRITTNEY C. STEWART, OF TEXAS  
MARGARET S. SULLIVAN, OF MISSOURI  
HIND TAZI, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PETER J. THEIS, OF MINNESOTA  
KRISTINA E. TONN, OF OHIO  
DARRYL A. TURNER, OF ILLINOIS  
ERIN C. TYLER, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICIA A. VANDERWALL, OF FLORIDA  
PETER M. VANDERWALL, OF FLORIDA  
JOHN N. WHEELER, OF ALASKA  
SANDRA M. ZUNIGA GUZMAN, OF VIRGINIA

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 21, 2019:

### THE JUDICIARY

DANIEL P. COLLINS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as the founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

I support H.R. 2480 because this legislation will help states to address the recent rise in child abuse and neglect by providing strategic funding to build networks of prevention services designed to strengthen families and to improve the quality of child protective services.

Madam Speaker, child abuse and neglect is a pervasive public health problem that continues to affect millions of children across the country.

Although we witnessed significant declines in the rate of child abuse and neglect across the 1990s and 2000s, the rate of child maltreatment has ticked up in recent years as the opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities across the country.

In 2017, more children received an investigation or response from child protective services agencies than any other time in the decade prior.

It is long past time for the federal government to provide the necessary funding to reverse the rise in child maltreatment.

The "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" authorizes \$270 million for the expansion of prevention services to reach over 3 million children annually and another \$270 million to foster new research and support state child protective services agencies to expand services to meet increased demand without sacrificing quality.

Madam Speaker, another reason I strongly support this legislation is that it will also help address child abuse and neglect by improving the quality of federal and state data.

Specifically, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" establishes uniform standards for counting child fatalities and near fatalities related to child maltreatment and will create an electronic system that allows states to share data from their child abuse and neglect registries with other states.

H.R. 2480 also combats childhood maltreatment and protects children by initiating protocol designed to detect infant abuse earlier, prevent child injuries and fatalities and halting the effects of maltreatment before they even develop.

By supporting the training and careers of medical and child welfare professionals, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" will help successfully identify and respond to signs of potential abuse in infants under age three, better protecting them from the immediate and lifelong negative impacts of

childhood maltreatment and offering an ensured solution to end abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that 1 in 7 children in the United States suffers from child abuse or neglect.

The effects of this abuse are far-reaching and severe, hindering a child's mental, physical, and emotional development with consequences that may follow the person through his or her lifetime.

Childhood maltreatment has also been linked to higher risk for a wide range of long-term and future health concerns, including diabetes, lung disease, and cancer.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with passage of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

### HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and to preserve the liberties that we hold dear in this nation.

Every Memorial Day, our nation unites to remember our military heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the values and freedoms we all cherish. This day of remembrance represents why so many people in our country are grateful to be Americans. No other nation has sacrificed so much to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations as well.

As we reflect on the remarkable lives of our nation's fallen soldiers and their families, we must continue to honor them each and every day, as a single day of commemoration is far short of what they deserve. I know that back home in my district, our community will do their part in carrying on the legacy of these selfless individuals.

This year, the Granbury community will host their annual "Field of Flags," which is a memorial of over a thousand flags flying along Highway 377. These flags are dedicated to the lives of those that were killed in action or that are still missing in action.

Attending Memorial Day events like the "Field of Flags" this weekend is imperative to teaching younger generations about the sacrifices that our military and first-responders make so that we may continue to live by the values that founded this nation.

May God bless our men and women serving today and in days past, may He comfort those who endure the pain of loss, and may He never cease to shed his grace on Texas and this great nation.

### CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several extraordinary young women from Missouri's Third Congressional District, for their achievement in earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is not an achievement easily obtained. It requires a significant amount of time, initiative, commitment, and leadership. The lessons learned in each of the seven steps that must be completed to achieve the Gold Award can be used beyond the Girl Scouts and applied in their educational choices, career paths, and everyday lives. With each of their Gold Projects, the young women have identified issues in their communities important to them, created plans for solving these concerns, and tackled the problems head-on. Because of their determination and drive, they have helped make their community a better place. Each of these young ladies should be proud of their accomplishments and I am honored to recognize each of them on this momentous occasion.

Congratulations to the following outstanding young women: Allison Bright, Emily Kurtz, Lindsay Picha, Kimberly Coulon, Maddi McGuire, Jillian Marie Rodgers, Madelynn Dickson, Anne Katherine Meister, Victoria Suerig, Nicolette Kolenc, Alyssa Miller, Madison Stumpf, Josephine Schmaltz, Sarah Burke, Shannon Wyss, and Sarah Wyble for their hard work and dedication as they join a selective group of young women.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing these exceptional young women for a job well done.

### RECOGNIZING NOAH CONNER

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Conner in honor of his presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Conner has shown his excellence in track and cross-country running while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can't think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Noah Conner and commend him for his hard work in and out of the classroom.

• 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.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
KATHLEEN PIERCE-RYAN

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my constituent Kathleen Pierce-Ryan, who as an active member of her community, passionate about giving back through her gift of song.

Kathleen Pierce-Ryan was born on April 7, 1931, to Irish immigrants in the Bronx. Her talent for singing became evident early in life, and she developed her voice with her music teacher Sister Gabriel at St. Gabriel's Parish School. Going on to win local singing competitions and receive awards for her performances, Kathleen auditioned at the Metropolitan Opera where she was awarded a scholarship and even performed at a concert in Manhattan Town Hall.

It was her brother who invited Kathleen to perform at the inaugural ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery, and she volunteered there, singing the National Anthem and God Bless America every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony, for the next 39 years. Having had the honor of attending many of these services, I can attest that her songs touched the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of listening and provided solace to those who grieved.

It was during some of the hardest moments in the lives of these veteran families that Kathleen's voice comforted them, her patriotic melodies evoking an everlasting sense of pride. There is no doubt her passing pains the hearts of each and every family she touched throughout her 39 years singing at Calverton. Her voice is now sorely missed across Calverton National Cemetery and our entire community.

This Memorial Day, as we honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have fought for the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world and the families that have stood by their side, let us also remember the so many Americans like Kathleen who have done their part to serve and inspire throughout our great nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY  
LIGGINS

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Liggins, a nurse and community civil rights activist, whose work tackling rampant crime and drugs in her neighborhood helped create a safe environment for families to thrive and grow.

Although she lost her final battle on May 8, 2019, her legacy as a nurse working out of her mobile health clinic and helping those in need lives on. Ms. Liggins' service was inspired by a chance meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a civil rights march in Chicago, where Dr. King encouraged her to go back to school, finish her education, and help

others. Inspired by his words, she attended the University of Arizona where she received her degree and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and vowed to use her talents to champion the causes of the voiceless.

Ms. Liggins received many awards for her service to our community. She received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" and the National Jefferson Award in 1993 which was awarded in our nation's capital. Her activism and leadership helped lift our community beyond what we could ever imagine, and she was recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in Southern Arizona.

Ms. Liggins also took pride in her political activism and worked tirelessly to register voters and use the ballot box for change. An active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she continually advocated for criminal justice reform to give incarcerated young African Americans a chance at a better life. Bearing witness to the blatant racism and prejudice of her youth endowed her with the grit and determination to ensure that that mistakes and trauma of the past were not inflicted on future generations.

In that vein, she took on the education system and advocated for better policies to improve the graduation rates of African American students. Instead of being discouraged by a justice system that sometimes turned a critical eye to the poor, and a health system that put corporate interests over the health of her community, she remained motivated to create positive change.

Betty Liggins didn't hold back. Her life is an example of how ordinary citizens with ordinary means can always stand up against the evils of injustice and poverty and accomplish extraordinary things.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a scheduling conflict which caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote 166.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2020 CENSUS

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Census. Every decade, the Census shapes important local infrastructure and investment decisions like where to build new schools, establish workforce training sites, invest in road and public transportation projects, and fund health care and affordable housing. The Census also determines how many Members of Congress are allocated per state and informs decisions about Congressional district lines, ensuring fair representation.

An accurate Census is vital to the well-being of Washington's communities. That is why I

oppose adding a citizenship question to the Census. By enabling informed decisions, accurate Census data can create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for people in Washington's Second District. Adding an un-tested citizenship question will sow fear and lead people to not respond to the Census survey, negatively impacting local communities.

Madam Speaker, I continue to support a well-researched and just 2020 Census to foster innovation, growth and prosperity for Washington state communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 218, and Yea on Roll Call No. 219.

CONGRATULATING THE BRADLEY  
UNIVERSITY SPEECH TEAM ON  
THEIR WIN AT THE AMERICAN  
FORENSICS ASSOCIATION'S NA-  
TIONAL TOURNAMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments. Bradley University is the only team to win a national championship every decade since 1980 and is one of the most winning teams in the country.

Bradley's Speech Team is an extremely accomplished program and impressively have now added two more national titles to their long list of championships. The program has also claimed more than 150 individual national champions and has served as a special place on campus for students to come together, tell stories and improve their communication skills along the way. The speech community unites students across the country and provides them with a community to share their passions and discuss topics important to them. I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to have a team as special as this. They are an example of how a strong work ethic and dedication can lead to victory. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Peoria throughout the state and country. I look forward to following them as they continue their work and build skills that will last a lifetime.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as the Bradley University Speech Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments.

NEW FETAL HEARTBEAT  
ABORTION LAWS**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the so-called “fetal heartbeat” laws recently enacted in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Texas, and other states.

GEORGIA

House Bill 481 outlaws abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, when a doctor can usually detect a fetus’ heartbeat. Gov. Brian Kemp signed it into law May 7, and it is set to go into effect Jan. 1—unless it is blocked by the courts.

MISSOURI

The Missouri House passed H.B. 126 in a 110-to-44 vote after hours of heated debate, including impassioned speeches by both Democratic and Republican legislators and angry shouts of “when you lie, people die” from those who opposed the bill. Those protesters were eventually removed by the police.

The measure, known as the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, now moves to the desk of Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, who is expected to sign it. The bill, which bans abortions at around eight weeks of pregnancy, often before a woman even knows she is pregnant, included no exceptions for rape or incest.

ALABAMA

Gov. Kay Ivey of Alabama on Wednesday signed into law a bill banning almost all abortions in the state, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Under the law, which is scheduled to take effect in six months, an abortion is only legal if the pregnant person’s life is at risk. A doctor who performs an abortion for any other reason could face up to 99 years in prison.

TEXAS

The Texas Senate approved a bill Thursday that would impose criminal penalties on doctors who fail to treat babies born alive after failed abortion attempts—extremely rare cases—a month after the House approved the same measure. If the House concurs with the Senate’s minor changes to House Bill 16, it will then head to the governor’s desk.

The Senate approved the bill in a 21-10 vote, with Democratic state senators Eddie Lucio of Brownsville and Judith Zaffirini of Laredo bucking their party to support the measure. The measure, authored by state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, gives teeth to existing federal and state laws that grant legal protections to children born after abortion attempts. Doctors who “fail to provide the appropriate medical treatment”—like immediately transferring the infant to a hospital—could be charged with a third-degree felony, and they would have to pay a fine of at least \$100,000.

MISSISSIPPI

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the bill into law in March which says physicians who perform abortions after a fetal heartbeat is found (typically at around 6 weeks) could have their medical licenses revoked. The state allows abortions after a fetal heartbeat is found if a pregnancy endangers a woman’s life or one of her major bodily functions but does not have exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

OHIO

Gov. Mike DeWine signed one of the nation’s most restrictive abortion bans into

law Thursday afternoon and opponents have already pledged to take him to court. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio has already promised to sue over the legislation, which would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected and prosecute doctors who perform them anyway. A fetal heartbeat can be detected as early as six weeks into a woman’s pregnancy, which can be before a woman finds out she’s pregnant. The “heartbeat bill” passed the GOP-controlled Legislature on Wednesday amid protests from advocates of abortion access. DeWine signed the bill, making Ohio the sixth state to enact the ban. Under the bill, doctors would face a fifth-degree felony punishable by up to a year in prison for performing an abortion after detecting a heartbeat. The bill has an exception to save the life of the woman but no exception for rape or incest—in line with current state law.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE JOHNSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 217—Passage of H.R. 5.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately missed the last vote on H.R. 5 final passage due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 217.

APPLE VALLEY SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS THOMAS  
HOEGERMAN RETIRES**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

Thomas E. Hoegerman was born September 15, 1959 in Lodi, CA. He attended California State University Sacramento where he earned a B.A. in liberal studies, which he later followed with a teaching credential from the University of the Pacific and a master’s degree from Chapman University. He joined the Apple Valley Unified School District in 1989, where he taught at Yucca Loma Elementary School and later at Vista Campana Middle School. In 1996, Tom joined the District Office, where he has worked to improve education outcomes across the district.

During his time at the District Office, Tom oversaw the construction of both Granite Hills High School and Sitting Bull Academy. He

also implemented class-size reduction, assessment systems, and data analysis programs across the district. His leadership during the restructuring that followed the Great Recession was instrumental in ensuring student success while keeping the district financially stable. Tom has also served in several educational organizations, including the San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Students, California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, and San Bernardino Gangs and Drugs Task Force Executive Committee.

Superintendent Thomas Hoegerman has been an incredible asset to the education community in Apple Valley, and he will be sorely missed in retirement. I wish him and his wife Lisa a happy retirement and a happy 30th anniversary this July.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. The Senate followed the House two weeks later with passage on June 4, 1919, and the amendment was ratified by the states the following year. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate this victorious milestone of the women’s suffrage movement.

In 1848, a group of women organized a national women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Following the convention, the right to vote came to the front and center of the women’s rights movement. Many women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, along with Susan B. Anthony and other activists, raised public awareness and lobbied state and federal governments to grant voting rights to women.

Almost 70 years later, in her first term, Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, introduced a Constitutional Amendment to grant women’s suffrage. Several years later, women’s rights groups finally emerged victorious with the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Madam Speaker, our democracy is stronger because of the 19th Amendment, and I am proud to honor women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and other women, who accomplished so much. The efforts of these great American women afford generations to come with the opportunity to vote freely, whether it is in a neighbor’s garage in Escondido, or from a far battlefield defending our freedom.

## HONORING SANDY D’ALEMBERTE

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to hear of the passing of a truly

great Floridian, Sandy D'Alemberte. As it does for so many, his passing pains me both personally and for our state and country. Sandy was a voice for reason, the rule of law, decency and kindness—a “necessary man” for all his time and certainly for these times. It is enough to remember him as a brilliant legislator, president of the American Bar Association (ABA), Florida State University (FSU) president and Florida Constitutional scholar. And, much loved dean while I was at FSU College of Law. However, Sandy was indispensable in so many instances in Florida's history—both the big moments and some moments that most of his fellow Floridians might never know about but which were just as grand. One of the latter was his embrace of Jose Manuel Godinez-Samperio and his fight to be admitted to the Florida Bar. Jose graduated valedictorian of his class at Armwood High School in Hillsborough County, Fla. and went on to attend FSU College of Law. Jose made history when he graduated from FSU College of Law and passed the Florida Bar exam, but when he sought admittance to the Florida Bar as an undocumented immigrant, this great American Story almost came to an end. Sandy's belief in the law, fair play and young people caused him to take on this injustice. He brought together a team, including me, past presidents of the ABA, bipartisan members of the Florida Legislature and others, to successfully confront this quiet individual inequity just as he had taken on more large and public challenges for all of Florida. Like so many public officials, I can say that Sandy has helped make me a better representative for my neighbors in Tampa and throughout Florida. I sought his counsel for Florida's future as recently as last fall. The gracious efforts by Sandy on behalf of the small and the grand, and the foundation he has laid for the legal community, higher education, his state and his country will hopefully be of some solace to Patsy and his family.

#### COMMENDING 2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

##### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 119 greater Richmond area high school seniors enlisting in the United States Armed Services after graduation. These students have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to academic excellence and public service. I am honored to offer my sincerest congratulations on this achievement and offer my best wishes for the years to come.

I commend the following graduates on their selflessness and bravery for choosing to serve their fellow Americans in the United States Armed Services: Caleb Alford, Jamaia Allen, Nya Banks, Ryan Beggs, David Benfield Jr., Andreas Biggers, Rosemary Brett, Kylie Cargill, Cayne Chartrand, Alexis Creighton, Tania Dawson, Jack Dewalt, Samantha Edwards, Jillian Engels, Keaton Fields, Joseph Franklin, Andrew Fulkerson, Jacob Gecsey, Maria Guevara, Tayauna Hargrove, Dylan Hicks, Kiara Holloway, Michael Humphrey,

Precious King, Elijah Knipp, Rogelio Macuno III, Michael Mays, Teshawn McDaniel, Jaeshaunda McIver, Christopher Meadows, Maurice Miles, Tatianna Montero, Perrion Neal, Jacob Parker, Ethan Parsons, Tristan Philyaw, Robert Post, Eric Rice, Jonathan Simpson, Yahsean Singleton, Marlon Spence, Trey Staub, Alexandra Stone, Larry Sutton Jr., Joshua Thomas, Matthew Vanderwerff, Nicholas Waldruff, Latrell Warren, Naziah Watson, Lianna Williams, Andrew Wood, Mark Wood Jr., Damen Banberger, William Barker, William Bizzell, Austin Bowen, Robert Brandon, Benjamin Brown, Emmanuel Cann, Alexis Costello, William Cunningham, Nicholas Curran, Robert Daniels, Probus Das, Kioana Edwards, Jackson Erley, Marcus Fuller-Collins, Sefan Garner, Patrick Goole, Ashley Gothreau, Gabriel Groseclosedurand, George Hall, Darius Harris, Arshina Hull, Ciera Johns, Connor Johnson, Francisco Johnson, Luis Kerby, Daiquan Lewis, Michael McCoy, Avery McKay, Shaqee Mills, Dylan Moore, David Price, Samuel Price, Duncan Proffitt, Forrest Rohde, Terrian Rollins, Derric Skinner, Nikolas Smith, Dante Staves, Trevor Sterrett, Timothy Thompson, Davion Tribbey, Seth Wassenberg, Austin Williams, Hunter Williams, Marcanthony Williams, Patrick Wilson, Jones Zion, Trevor Campbell, James Cappiello, Miguel Castillo-Padilla, Secoia Davis, Michael Edwards, Abigail Ford, Joseph Kamanda, Adam Lambert, Enrique Lopez, Sean McCracken, Lily Nicholson, Gabriel Reillyscheidt, Tylica Singleton, Ryan Snider, Roy Terrell, Adboul Bah, Zane Mangrum, Ethan Oliva, and John Smetek.

These students will be honored at the 4th Annual Greater Richmond area Our Community Salutes Ceremony on May 30th at Hermitage High School in Henrico, Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young women and men for courageously deciding to serve their country. We are safer and stronger because of their choice to protect the values that make us uniquely American.

#### STANDING UP TO DIPG

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma or DIPG is a common form of pediatric brain cancer responsible for the majority of deaths in children with brain tumors annually. In honor of Olivia Mazzell, whose life was taken far too soon by DIPG, I am grateful to cosponsor House Resolution 114, which supports the designation of May 17th as ‘DIPG Awareness Day’ to raise awareness and encourage research into cures for DIPG and pediatric cancers in general.

I would also like to recognize her grandparents Angelo and Kathy Basile and parents Jonathan Mazzell and Heather Hiatt of Lexington, South Carolina, for their efforts to create greater access to helpful medications. Working together we can have a meaningful conversation about strengthening medical research to address the needs of children with cancer.

We honor the life of Olivia Mazzell, commend the tireless work of her family to raise

awareness of DIPG, and gratefully encourage fellow Members of Congress to continue prioritizing medical research for childhood cancer.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILD AMERICA ACT OF 2019

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Rebuild America Act of 2019. This legislation makes much-needed investments in America's roads, bridges, and transit systems by raising the federal gasoline excise tax by five cents a year for the next five years, indexing it to inflation, and expressing Congress' intention to repeal and replace the gas tax with a more sustainable funding source.

The United States faces the largest infrastructure funding gap in the world. The sector with the greatest shortfall is surface transportation, which the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates needs more than \$1.1 trillion of investment by 2025. Worse, we are paying for 2019 infrastructure with 1993 dollars. Inflation and fuel efficiency improvements have reduced the gas tax's purchasing power by more than 40 percent since it was last raised in 1993.

Today, one in five miles of highway pavement is in poor condition, and damage due to rough roads costs the average motorist \$599 a year. Americans waste nearly 100 hours a year stuck in traffic and congestion, costing the U.S. economy \$305 billion annually—an average of \$1,445 per driver. These costs fall especially hard on low-income individuals, who can't afford the unexpected burden of a blown tire, hourly wages lost to congestion, or the steadily increasing cost of transportation.

Since 2010, 35 states with legislatures controlled by both parties have voted to raise the gas tax. American families pay far more from continued neglect than a gas tax increase. Inaction will cost families \$3,400 in annual disposable income by 2025, whereas a 25-cent gas tax increase costs the average driver less than \$3.00 a week and contributes nearly \$400 billion toward upgrading roads, bridges, and transit systems. Investment in American infrastructure is the jobs bill that our economy needs and the middle class deserves. Every \$1.3 billion in infrastructure investment adds 29,000 construction jobs, yields \$2 billion in economic growth, and reduces the federal deficit by \$200 million.

This legislation is expected to invest nearly \$400 billion in the next decade for surface transportation projects and deserves inclusion in a comprehensive infrastructure package that rebuilds and renews America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ARNIE WISHNICK

##### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Arnie



Wishnick—a beloved husband, and Los Angeles community leader—who passed away on April 27, 2019 at the age of 76.

Arnie was born on September 7, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois to Ruth and Ben Wishnick, who immigrated to the United States from Poland. His career began in high school as a repairman for the Schick Razor Company. After college, he moved out west to join the emerging banking industry in Beverly Hills, eventually settling in Pacific Palisades.

In 1993, Arnie assumed the role of executive director of Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce, a position he held for 25 years. During those years, his extraordinary love and commitment to the community was evident from his dedicated organization of annual events like the Palisades Teen Contest, the Classic Auto Show and the Holiday Ho Ho Ho.

Arnie especially enjoyed coordinating celebrity appearances each year for the Fourth of July Palisades Americanism Parade. He also convinced stars such as Billy Crystal, Martin Short, and Steve Guttenberg to be Honorary Mayors of Pacific Palisades.

He was deeply involved in every aspect of the community. He was president of the Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades and an active member of both the Village Green Committee and PRIDE, two organizations designed to improve and enhance the aesthetics of Pacific Palisades. He was an honorary Rotarian and was recognized time and again for his service to the community, including with the Citizen of the Year, Sparkplug, and Pride of the Palisades awards.

Arnie loved the arts—he produced four musicals at Theatre Palisades and was a member of the Just Off Via Dance Troupe that performed at various community events. For a time, he even wrote movie reviews for the local newspaper.

Arnie is survived by his wife, Jackie; step children, Wendy and Daniel; their child, Bella; and his sister, Audrey. Arnie was always smiling, eager to chat and willing to help in any way he could. May Arnie's memory be a blessing to us all.

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JAMES R. CURRY RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF NAVAL SERVICE**

### **HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement Chief Warrant Officer James R. Curry, who will be retiring after 30 years of active duty in the United States Navy.

Chief Warrant Officer Curry joined the Navy on August 28, 1989 as an Airman Recruit and completed Basic Recruit Training at Great Lakes, Illinois. His first assignment was as Naval Air Station North Island, where he served as a Plane Captain for Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Ten. Over the course of his career, Chief Warrant Officer Curry has served in support of numerous operations, including North Korean Contingency Operations, Operation Desert Strike, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following multiple deployments afloat with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Four and Helicopter Anti-

Submarine Squadron Six, Chief Warrant Officer Curry reported to NAVSUPFAC at Paxtunt River, Maryland, where he served as Command Duty Officer. His most rewarding and satisfying tour, however, was with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23, the "Wildcards", where he served as Avionics Division Officer and Armament Division Officer.

Chief Warrant Officer Curry has honorably served our nation for the last three decades, and it's thanks to people like him that our country remains free and secure. I congratulate him on an exemplary career, and wish him a happy retirement with his wife Tracy and his five children.

### **PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

### **HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, and 202 on May 10, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote number 197, I would have voted "yes"; on roll call vote number 198, I would have voted "yes"; on roll call vote number 199, I would have voted "yes"; on roll call vote number 200, I would have voted "yes"; on roll call vote number 201, I would have voted "no"; and on roll call vote number 202, I would have voted "yes."

### **STROKE AWARENESS MONTH**

### **HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Stroke Awareness Month.

Stroke is the 5th leading cause of death and affects someone every 40 seconds in the U.S.

As a stroke survivor, I know the difficult road to recovery.

That's why I've reintroduced the Return to Work Awareness Act to help survivors of stroke and other serious illnesses get back into the workforce.

I invite my colleagues to join in cosponsoring the Return to Work Awareness Act, as well as my resolution recognizing Stroke Awareness Month.

But, we can do a lot more than just raise awareness, and I'm proud to say that House Democrats are delivering "For the People."

In the past few weeks, we passed a bill protecting health coverage for the 130 million Americans living with pre-existing conditions, including 6.5 million stroke survivors, and today we will debate legislation to strengthen the Affordable Care Act and lower drug costs.

Madam Speaker, let's continue delivering "For the People" in May and every other month.

### **THE SECOND STAGE OF AOG HISTORY (1901–45)**

### **HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD part two of an article I submitted earlier this year by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates:

"At the turn of the 20th century, the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy had been in existence for more than three decades. It began on May 22, 1869, when 15 graduates, acting upon an idea from Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, met in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818, and adopted articles and bylaws for the new organization. Article II of the Association's Constitution stated: 'The object of this Association shall be to cherish the memories of the Military Academy at West Point, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates.' According to Charles P. Echols, Class of 1891, the early years of the Association were dedicated to 'little more than holding an annual meeting at West Point, collecting dues, and publishing an annual bulletin.' Echols was generalizing, of course—in its early years, the Association moved Sylvanus Thayer's remains to the West Point Cemetery and memorialized him with a statue, and it built a memorial hall at West Point with funds left by George Cullum in his will—but in the first stage of its existence, the Association was hardly recognizable as the organization it would later become. That began to change during the Association of Graduates' second stage of evolution (1901–45), as changes to AOG's mission, governance, and operations signaled its desire to become more like a 'modern' alumni association.

One year into that second stage, the membership of the Association was celebrated by President Theodore Roosevelt, who attended West Point's Centennial Exercises and said during his June 11, 1902 speech, 'During [its first 100 years] no other educational institution in the land has contributed so many names as West Point has contributed to the honor roll of the nation's greatest citizens . . . The average graduate of West Point during these hundred years has given a greater sum of service to the country through his life than has the average graduate of any other institution in this broad land.' A year earlier, almost as if in anticipation of Roosevelt's remarks, the Association's 1901 Annual Reunion included an 'Index to Obituaries (1870–1900),' which contained 953 names of the president's 'honor roll' and information on how to find biographies detailing each's 'sum of service to the country.' Also, with 1902 being the Centennial of West Point, some 350 members of the Long Gray Line were present to personally hear Roosevelt's tribute, more than triple the attendance of the previous highest annual meeting attendance (109 in 1883). During the Centennial Exercises, they also witnessed Lieutenant General John M. Schofield, Class of 1853 (Retired) and President of the Association, unveil a tablet commemorating the Academy's first century of existence. 'Let us all pledge ourselves to our country, that the best efforts of our lives shall be to make the record of the second century even more memorable than that of the first,' Schofield said in his brief remarks.

Despite the excitement and vigor inspired by West Point's Centennial Exercises, the Association of Graduates returned to a more

typical level of attendance in 1903, with only 20 graduates attending the annual meeting. Lack of participation became one of two main concerns of the Association in the new century. During the 1905 annual meeting, Alexander Webb, Class of 1855, proposed a resolution to form a committee to study the attendance issue and to offer a solution. Webb's classmate Charles Larned was appointed chairman. He reportedly addressed the matter at the 1906 meeting, but no records of his report exist. A few years later, however, Robert Howze, Class of 1888, who was a member of Larned's "Committee on Entertainment," suggested that interest could be added to the annual meeting if the Superintendent would designate one day during the graduating week as "Graduates' Day," and that "some specially interesting features be added to this day's exercises." Howze's idea was enthusiastically received and unanimously adopted, but it took 15 years before it came to fruition under a new name.

The second main concern of the Association centered on a gift that graduates could present to the Academy. In 1907, John Carson, Class of 1855, suggested that the Association raise funds for an organ for the new Cadet Chapel, for which the Academy had just broken ground a year earlier. At the same annual meeting, a proposal was made to purchase bronze doors for Thayer Hall (then the name of the ballroom in Cullum Hall), but it was rejected given that plans were already underway to change the room, making such doors obsolete. The gift matter went to committee, and the following year its members recommended a memorial window for the new Cadet Chapel to be built over the altar. By 1909, one year before the Cadet Chapel was completed, the Association had raised \$1,564 for the "Memorial Window Fund." Eight glass companies submitted competitive designs for the project, and on October 17, 1909 a jury of committee and advisory members settled on two designs, which went head-to-head in a second competition in February 1910. The contract for the memorial window, at an amount of \$8,000, was ultimately awarded to the Willett Stained Glass and Decorating Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Soon after, Bertram Goodhue, the architect of the Cadet Chapel, wrote a letter to the Association stating, "I think there is no doubt but that you will have . . . the most wonderful window of modern times and one of the finest in the world." At the conclusion of the 1911 annual meeting, which was held in the new Cadet Chapel, Horace Porter, Class of 1860, presented the memorial window to the Academy on behalf of the living alumni, approximately 140 of whom were present to see Major General Thomas Barry, Class of 1877, the 27th Superintendent of USMA, accept the Association's gift.

In addition to noting the increased number of graduates attending the 42nd annual meeting, the 1911 Annual Reunion was the first to highlight classes holding their own reunions at West Point, citing those of 1886, 1891, 1896, and 1901. Two years later, all five living members of the Class of 1863 returned to their Rockbound Highland Home to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. According to the 1913 Annual Reunion, "Everything possible was done to make it pleasant for the visiting graduates by the Superintendent, the Quartermaster and the officers detailed to meet the trains and have charge of rooms in Cullum and Cadet Barracks." In a letter submitted to the 1913 Executive Committee, Francis Hills, Class of 1866, went even further, extending his personal appreciation to Colonel Clarence Townsley, Class of 1881, the 28th Superintendent of USMA, for making all graduates

"feel that they are warmly welcomed to their old home."

In the wake of these warm sentiments, Gustav Fieberger, Class of 1879 and a member of the Executive Committee, announced a plan at the 1915 annual meeting for classes to purchase one panel each for the remaining windows of the new Cadet Chapel. According to George Pappas, Class of 1944, the next morning, representatives from the Class of 1875 presented the Association with a check for \$250, making it the first class to place a window in the Chapel. Within two years, more than 20 classes sponsored windows. "The Stained Glass Window" project became the forerunner of Class Giving at the Association of Graduates, with each graduating class, 1802 through 1976, purchasing a panel and filling all the available space (windows in memory of earlier classes were sponsored by classes graduating 100 years later). The new Cadet Chapel inspired even more giving: Arthur Gerhard donated a baptismal font in memory of his father, William Gerhard, Class of 1869; and the Class of 1885 initiated an effort to purchase a full set of chimes on behalf of the Association. Furthermore, the enthusiasm for the Academy at this time could not be contained to just the annual meeting at West Point. In 1915, more than 100 graduates dined together in Honolulu, Hawaii, sending "felicitations to those gathered at West Point"; and, in 1916, graduates held large dinners in Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Manila to celebrate the anniversary of the Academy's founding.

Unfortunately, World War I put a halt on the momentum that had been building for the Association and Long Gray Line during this time. There was no annual meeting in 1917, and the next major milestone of AOG history did not occur until 1922, despite the Association celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1919 (although it did present the chimes to the Cadet Chapel at its annual meeting that year). At the 1922 meeting, William Dykman, Class of 1875, who was elected President of the Association in 1920, introduced several amendments to AOG's Constitution. First, he proposed "to amplify the statement of the object of the Association." This amendment added the phrase "to promote its [the Military Academy at West Point] welfare and that of its graduates" to Article II of the Constitution, which is the predecessor of the West Point Association of Graduates' current mission: "To serve West Point and the Long Gray Line." Dykman also suggested revisions to AOG's governance: recommending a Vice President, increasing the Executive Committee from 10 to 30 members (to be appointed by the President), and transferring the appointment of AOG Secretary and Treasurer from the presiding officer at the annual meeting to the President. Dykman's amendments were universally adopted, putting AOG on the path to developing the Board of Trustees governing model that would it later employ throughout the remainder of the century. Dykman's arguably finest contribution to the Association occurred two years earlier, although it took some time to become manifest. In 1920, after he had been elected President, Dykman sought to influence members of graduating classes to join the Association and introduced the idea of associate membership to AOG. In the 1921 Annual Report, Dykman reported that all 17 members of the Class of 1921 (the "Orioles") became members. The same was true for the Class of 1922, "nearly all as life members," and more than 80 percent of graduates from successive classes throughout the 1920s joined. According to Dykman's obituary in the 1938 Annual Report, "This infusion of younger members into the Association of Graduates, for which

he was largely responsible, gave the Association new life and new objectives."

One of those new objectives was "Alumni Day" (modeled on "Graduates' Day," proposed 15 years earlier), which was first held on June 11, 1923 and included a wreath-laying ceremony at Thayer Statue, a tradition that continues to this day. From 1925 to 1928, Dykman served as AOG Vice President (the post he recommended three years prior) and then as Chairman of the Board of Trustees until 1935. In 1926, his idea for associate membership was finally approved, allowing those who completed initial summer training and stayed at the Academy long enough to take their first semester's exams to join the AOG. This expansion of membership provided a temporary spike in the Association's revenue (a nearly 45 percent increase in membership fees and annual dues), but a 1927 report by the Finance Committee (of which Dykman was a senior member) showed the need to establish an income stream beyond dues to support the Association. As a result, provisions were made for the establishment of an Endowment Fund, the annual income from which would provide necessary operating funds for the Association in perpetuity.

Statements in the report such as, "If this Association is to fulfill its natural and proper mission and give that measure of support and assistance to the Military Academy which other Colleges and Universities receive from their graduates, it must have an assured income," seem to come straight from Dykman, who was a respected New York City lawyer and director of four powerful companies of the day. Returning to his obituary, "[His] great contribution to the Military Academy and to the Association of Graduates was giving to it a re-birth of interest and imbuing its members with a feeling of respect for the power of the Association in doing many things for West Point which the Academy and the War Department authorities could not well do."

During its "re-birth," the Association of Graduates gave life to new projects and grew in its duties. The "Forward" to the 1929 Annual Report called attention to some of these changes. It stated, "This issue . . . represents the beginning of an effort upon the part of your Officers and Trustees to present it in a somewhat improved and more attractive form . . . new matter has been introduced, and long lists containing names and addresses of members have been omitted . . . the work of the work of the Association is an event of the first importance, and promises much towards the increased usefulness of the Association in the future." The Association was moving toward what Alexander Piper, Class of 1889 and AOG President (1934-36), later called, "... more life and less morgue." There was even discussion during this time to "kill" publication of graduates' obituaries in the annual report, which comprised approximately 75 percent of each issue, but members ultimately felt this would violate the original mission of the Association: "... to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater," particularly through its graduates.

In 1930, the Association renewed the publication of the AOG Bulletin, a "mid-year pamphlet" designed to keep members "informed of current matters of interest during the long interval between the publication of [AOG's] annual reports." There were four Bulletins issued between December 1900 and April 1905, but then publication mysteriously ceased. One plausible reason is that the earlier Bulletin was published by "U.S.M.A. Press, West Point, N.Y." AOG balance sheets of this period only show expenses for publishing the annual report, which used Seemann & Peters, Printers and Binders of

Saginaw, Michigan. AOG was able to revive the Bulletin thanks to the support it received from the June 1929 establishment of an Association office at the Academy, manned by an active duty officer who served "in the capacity of Secretary and Treasurer of the Association of Graduates and as the Officer in Charge of Cullum's Register." AOG published four Bulletins between 1930 and 1934. As before, the reason why publication stopped remains a mystery, although its design seemed to influence the annual report, which started publishing reunion summaries in 1935.

The Bulletin reappeared one more time in 1941, brought back to inform "Association members of matters of current West Point interest, particularly since the Military Academy curriculum, always in step with the times, so well meets the demands of the present national emergency." The format of this last issue had radically changed from its predecessors. Instead of long treatises regarding "The Indebtedness of the United States to the Military Academy" or "Arthur Sherburne Hardy's Opinion of the West Point Educational System," Bulletin No. 9 was written in news sheet style and contained brief reports about current happenings at the Academy (e.g., "First Class Attends Maneuvers," "Branch Instruction," "Skeet Club," reports from academic departments, etc.). A year later in 1942, AOG's Bulletin and the annual report, which had existed for 72 years, merged to form the first issue of Assembly magazine, the periodical publication that would inform graduates for the next 70 years.

Innovations to keep AOG relevant to graduates were not only confined to its communication efforts. The final part of the Association's re-birth involved changes to its governance, which were done to make the organization more transparent and accountable to its membership. After accepting Dykman's proposed changes in the early 1920s, AOG elected a President and Vice-President at each annual meeting. The President then appointed an Executive Committee of 30 members, as well as an additional member to serve as Chairman. The Executive Committee made all preparations for the annual meeting, including nominating candidates for the President and Vice-President positions, and audited the accounts of the Treasurer. Starting in 1929, the number of Vice Presidents of AOG was increased to five and the Executive Committee became known as the Board of Trustees. Furthermore, the Trustees appointed for that year were equally divided into three classes: one appointed for one year, one appointed for two years, and one appointed for three years. In each successive year, another group of 10 grads were appointed to the Board of Trustees to serve for a term of three years.

Then, in 1935, Piper, President at that time, proposed the formation of another body labeled the "Executive Committee." This committee, which consisted of the President and four Trustees (chosen by ballot of the Board), would "possess and exercise by a majority of its members all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees," when it was not in session. Unfortunately, a year later, learned that the election of this Executive Committee was illegitimate, as it was voted on by proxy, which was a practice prohibited by New York State according to the Association's certificate of incorporation. In correcting this oversight, the Board agreed to sweeping changes in AOG's Constitution and governance. First, Article III, paragraph 2, was amended so that Association members now directly elected Board of Trustee members instead of the President appointing them. Then, paragraph 5 of that Article eliminated the Chairman of the Board position, stating, "He is not necessary

and seldom has any knowledge of the operating affairs of the Association." Finally, the By-Laws were amended to eliminate excess Trustees (i.e., the President, the five Vice Presidents, and the USMA Superintendent) and prescribe the duties of the Board, Treasurer, and Secretary. This governance model continued, with some minor tweaks (e.g., increase the size of the Board in 1956 and adding an Executive Vice President in 1972), for the next six decades.

After addressing its governance issues, AOG turned its attention to the recurring question of how to fund its operations. While the Endowment Fund started out strong—Bulletin No. 5 (1930) reported cash and pledge contributions amounting to nearly \$55,500 of its \$100,000 goal—the Great Depression obviously took its toll. By the mid-1930s, the Association was still approximately \$25,000 short of the goal, and the fund's \$2,700 yearly interest was not enough to cover AOG's annual expenses (\$5,600–\$6,000). Although roughly 70 graduates a year were being dropped from the Association's member roll during the height of the Depression for non-payment of annual dues, the Army Athletic Association, which also accepted support from graduates, was able to remain on solid financial footing. Piper was dismayed by this situation, and other AOG leaders called on younger graduates for support (contributions generally came from classes prior to 1930). It took a few more years, but in 1941, Frank McCoy, Class of 1897 and AOG President, reported, "Our funds have now reached sound, healthy proportions," with income exceeding expenditures the preceding year by nearly \$8,000.

The Association of Graduates entered the World War II era beginning to look like the organization with which many are familiar today. It had started to financially support the Academy, first with the windows in the Cadet Chapel and then in 1939 with furniture for Quarters 100 (the "Superintendent's Quarters Fund"); it had an effective governance model in which all operational decisions were made by the President and the Executive Committee, who were accountable to the membership, and then carried out by a small staff; and it had replaced the 350-plus-page annual report with the more engaging, less than 50-page ASSEMBLY magazine, published quarterly. The state of the Association was strong enough that in 1942 the Board debated the idea of lowering or eliminating dues. The proposal failed, but it signaled AOG leadership's desire to remove the burden of operating support coming primarily from membership dues.

Looking to find a new income stream, the West Point Alumni Foundation was established on December 26, 1945 to solicit advertising for ASSEMBLY and an annual (instead of decennial) Register of Graduates. The foundation's incorporation marks the transition from AOG's second stage of history to its third phase of "Foundation and Fundraising" (1946–94), where the Association's fundraising efforts for the Academy increased in importance, and its growth culminated with the opening of its new home, the Herbert Alumni Center. This phase in AOG history will be covered in the summer issue of West Point magazine."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained from the

floor on Monday, May 20, 2019. I missed roll call vote No. 219.

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 219, I would have voted 'YEA'.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate 100 years since the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment, taking a monumental step toward giving women the right to vote.

Women have always played an instrumental role in shaping this country, yet lacked one of the most fundamental rights. It wasn't until 1919 that our nation righted this wrong and millions of women earned the right to vote, thereby gaining full citizenship.

A women's suffrage amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1878. It wasn't until 41 years later that both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate finally voted to approve the 19th Amendment. The effort then went on to the states, requiring the approval of three-quarters of state legislatures.

I am proud to say that the great state of Wisconsin led the way. Wisconsin made history by becoming the first state to ratify the 19th amendment, granting national suffrage to women. This early and important vote paved the way for other states to follow suit.

Today is a day to celebrate the achievements of the women who made great sacrifices for suffrage. I especially want to thank Speaker PELOSI, and Rebecca Kleefisch who served as Executive Director of the Centennial Commission, and all of the other members of Commission for their tireless efforts to make this day possible.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, an unavoidable travel delay caused me to miss votes on Monday, May 20th.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 218; and YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: HONORING JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH, DISCUSSING ROLLBACK OF SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this Special Order to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith, a pivotal

civil rights leader and legal trailblazer that our country lost on April 28, 2019 at the age of 96.

When Judge Damon J. Keith was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to serve as Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, it was at a time when there were very few African American federal judges.

Judge Damon J. Keith said, "I never had a black teacher. . . . There wasn't a black police officer above the rank of sergeant. There were no black judges. There were not black elected officials."

Judge Damon J. Keith's appointment to the U.S. District Court was the same year that Thurgood Marshall was nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court Bench as an associate justice.

When Judge Damon J. Keith was later nominated by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the federal court of appeals, he was the sixth African American appointed to serve on a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The sixth.

Judge Keith made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of this country throughout his 52 years of service on the bench, including:

*Davis v. School District of City of Pontiac*, 309 F. Supp. 734 (E.D. Mich. 1970), which ordered citywide buses to integrate and helped integrate Pontiac public schools.

Judge Keith stood up to the KKK with this ruling and it became the first case to extend federal court-ordered integration to the North.

Then, Judge Keith ruled that President Nixon and U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell did not have the right to wiretap in domestic security cases without a court order in *United States v. United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan*, 407 U.S. 297 (1972).

That same year Judge Keith ruled in *Garrett v. City of Hamtramck*, 335 F. Supp. 16 (E.D. Mich. 1971), that Hamtramck practiced so-called "Negro removal" under the guise of urban renewal and ordered the city to build new public housing.

In *Stamps v. Detroit Edison Co.*, 365 F. Supp. 87 (E.D. 1973), Judge Keith ordered Detroit Edison to pay 4 million to black employees and start an affirmative action program in a historic job-discrimination case.

Furthering integration of public spaces and jobs, in *Baker v. City of Detroit*, 483 F. Supp. 919 (E.D. 1979), Judge Keith ordered the Detroit Police Department to carry out Detroit Mayor, Coleman Young's plan to integrate.

And in *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft*, 195 F. Supp. 2d 937 (E.D. 2002), he upheld a lower court's decision prohibiting the Justice Department from barring the public and press from deportation hearings involving people suspected of supporting terrorism.

Judge Keith did his job amid death threats and the obstacles of racial bigotry.

Judge Keith's dedication to civil rights and civil liberties came from a life dealing with racial inequality as a soldier and a young man.

Judge Damon J. Keith was born July 4, 1922.

Judge Keith was the grandson of slaves and the son of a Ford factory worker who made 5 dollars a day.

Judge Keith was youngest of seven children and he was the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

Once Judge Keith graduated from college during World War II in 1943, he enlisted in a segregated U.S. Army.

Judge Keith recalled the three years he spent in the Quartermaster Corps during World War II in Europe as "absolutely degrading," partly because the "all-colored" unit did not have a single black officer.

After Judge Keith was discharged in 1946 as a sergeant, he returned home to experience White German soldiers riding in the front seats of buses and dining in restaurants where he was not welcome.

Judge Keith's experience seeing African American soldiers being treated with less respect than White German prisoners of war, made him vow to fight for civil rights here at home.

So, Judge Keith attended and graduated from Howard University Law School with his JD in 1949.

While in law school, Judge Keith helped research civil rights cases, participated in mock trials and watched rising legal stars, like Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's chief legal counsel, practice his legal arguments and argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

After Judge Keith graduated law school in 1949, he went on to not only pass the bar but found one of the first Black law firms in Detroit city.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to change and as he climbed the legal ranks, Judge Keith brought women and minorities up with him, not just African-Americans but also Hispanics and Asians.

Judge Keith hired more minorities law clerks than any other federal judge and encouraged those he helped to do the same for other young minorities.

But, not only should Judge Keith be rewarded for what he has done as judge, but for what he has done as a man.

Judge Keith became the surrogate father and guardian for Willie Horton, guiding the young athlete from a troubled neighborhood into manhood and to stardom with the Detroit Tigers.

It was also Judge Keith who came to Rosa Parks's rescue in 1994 when the Civil Rights icon had been attacked by a burglar in her Detroit home.

Judge Keith helped her find a safe place to live in the aftermath.

Judge Keith's eldest daughter, Cecile Keith, said Saturdays was spent with their father, who would take them to dance classes, music lessons, and choir rehearsals, and afterward they would go out for hamburger and French fries.

Judge Keith took his children to the movies, Tiger games, played ball in their backyard, and he taught them how to ride bikes.

Judge Keith was more than a civil rights activist and he was more than a trailblazer.

Judge Keith was also a father and husband.

Judge Keith was a man dedicated to his wife, family, and to his community.

Judge Keith has always been a beacon of justice and we are a better country because of his work and are forever in his debt.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained with district

matters and missed the following votes. I would have voted "Yes" on roll call vote 218, and "Yes" on roll call vote 219.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL ALLEN ON HIS NEW POSITION AS NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Allen for his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). Mr. Allen will rise from the position of Chief Financial Officer at OSF Health Care in Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Allen began his career after earning an accounting degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Allen then went on to gain more than 25 years of experience in business and the healthcare industry—making him well qualified to take on this new role with the nation's largest membership organization for healthcare financial management executives and leaders. Leadership experience is something Mr. Allen gained in his 19 years as Chief Financial Officer for health systems and eight years in public accounting. Mr. Allen is no stranger to HFMA—he has been a member since 1993, and has chaired the Board of Examiners and served on the National Advisory Council. Mr. Allen will bring a new set of eyes to HFMA, having selected "Dare You to Move" as this year's theme to encourage members to get out of their comfort zone. I want to thank Mr. Allen for his work in healthcare and for his service to the Peoria community.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Michael Allen that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Michael Allen on his promotion to National Chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

DOCTOR DAMORDARA RAJASEKHAR RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of the President of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, Dr. Damordara Rajasekhara, who will be completing his term on June 20, 2019.

Dr. Rajasekhara earned his medical degree in 1976 from Madras Medical College in India. Afterwards, he went on to serve his pediatric internship and residency at the University of Connecticut John Dempsey Hospital, and completed a fellowship in neonatal perinatal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Health Care. Dr. Rajasekhara began

his term as President on June 20, 2018, serving the 2,800 member physicians with distinguished leadership over the past year. Dr. Rajasekhar also served as the chief of medical staff at Victor Valley Community Hospital and has a solo practice in Apple Valley. He believes that the physician-patient relationship is a key factor in providing quality health care, and he has always worked to promote the betterment of the medical profession.

Dr. Rajasekhar's leadership and commitment are greatly appreciated by his colleagues and the public he served. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to thank Dr. Damodara Rajasekhar for his years of public service and wish him the happiest of retirements.

RECOGNIZING FRAME FACTORY  
OWNER SALVADOR MOYA

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvador Moya, owner of the Frame Factory in South Bend, Indiana.

For years, Salvador has been a pillar of the northern Indiana arts community. He has an unparalleled passion for creative expression and for helping Hoosier artists discover, celebrate, and share their talent with the world.

I am grateful for the steadfast support Salvador offers young artists across our state. He has contributed so much to our community, and his continued leadership and philanthropy are true testaments to his compassion. He can always be found helping others and lifting spirits. Throughout his distinguished career, he has made a difference in the lives of countless aspiring artists by giving them opportunities to succeed that they would not otherwise have had.

Since 2003, Salvador's business, the Frame Factory, has delivered high-quality products and services to its customers. Small businesses like this are the backbone of our economy, and entrepreneurs like Salvador exemplify the American Dream. Driven by his enthusiasm for cultural enrichment and sense of community, Salvador's selflessness and hard work do not go unnoticed.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Salvador for his invaluable service to the northern Indiana community and to the State of Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 218 and "yea" on Roll Call No. 219.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM BURCHETT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, on March 5th, I missed all called votes because my flight from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Washington, D.C., was cancelled and I was unable to arrive until after conclusion of the day's votes.

On Friday, May 17, I was being treated in the Emergency Department at George Washington University Hospital and was unable to vote on H.R. 5. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted against the bill.

HONORING E. RICHARD JONES AND  
THE E. RICHARD JONES FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Jones and the E. Richard Jones Family Foundation for their contribution to our Napa Valley community, and Community Health Initiative.

Mr. Jones received a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University and a Master in Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. For as long as he has resided in the Napa Valley, Mr. Jones has been deeply involved in and committed to our community. Mr. Jones has worked to better the health and well-being of Napa residents through his foundation, The E. Richard Jones Family Foundation. The Foundation has been critical to the success of Community Health Initiative. The Foundation provided seed funding to Community Health Initiative to become the first non-profit health insurance broker in California that is motivated by the need to assist vulnerable populations and provide access to health care services in the public and private markets. Additionally, The E. Richard Jones Family Foundation was instrumental in registering over 18,000 people for health insurance and providing them with access to care.

Mr. Jones is active in our community in addition to his work with his foundation. He is a current Board Member and former Board President of the Napa Valley Vintners Association, the Board Chair of OLE Health and Raising a Reader, and a Board Member of NapaLearns, St. Helena Hospital, and the St. Helena Hospital Foundation. Through his work on these boards and through Community Health Initiative, Mr. Jones is admirably working to improve the health of the residents of Napa County.

Madam Speaker, Rick Jones is a friend of mine, a kind and generous person and his organization, the E. Richard Jones Family Foundation, is essential to the continual improvement of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them both here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I had an unavoidable family commitment and so I missed Roll Call vote number 218 regarding the "Intercountry Adoption Information Act (H.R. 1952)." Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes."

I also missed Roll Call vote number 219 regarding the "Denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice (H. Res. 106)." Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes."

DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL  
MUTILATION/CUTTING AS VIO-  
LATING HUMAN RIGHTS OF  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 106 denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate this harmful practice.

Female genital mutilation is a clear human rights violation and must be ended immediately.

In many parts of the world, female genital mutilation is still performed by a religious leader, town elder, or a medical professional with limited training using crude instruments which can include broken glass, kitchen knives, and razor blades, however, antiseptics and anesthesia are rarely used.

Leaving these young women, many of which are between the ages of 4 and 13, susceptible to elevated risk of HIV transmission, hemorrhaging, chronic pelvic inflammation, septicemia, and delayed menarche.

In about 15 percent of cases, infibulation, the most severe form of FGM/C, involves the removal of the labia and the suturing together of the vulva.

This practice may place the victim's life at risk and victims of infibulation must be cut open to have intercourse and may be repeatedly opened and closed at the husband's will to ensure fidelity.

The practice of FGM/C abroad has persisted due to strong sociocultural influences which ensure that it is secretly done and underreported.

And despite many international efforts, anti-FGM/C legislation has not ended the practice in many countries.

FGM/C is still embraced by practitioners of all the major faiths—Christianity, Islam and traditional worship on the contents of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

In the past, the U.S., largely through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Health Organization

have made several recommendations designated to end the practice of FGM/C.

However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk of, or had been subjected to, female genital mutilation, the United States must be a beacon against this type of immoral practice.

That is why I, along with former Representative Joe Crowley, introduced the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act, supported by international human rights group Equality Now, that required the federal government to undertake a national study to provide data on and insight into the prevalence of FGM/C in the U.S. and establish a multi-agency strategy to bring the practice to an end.

Following the introduction of the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation Act, I partnered with 58 other members of Congress to pen a bipartisan letter to the State, Health & Human Services, and Education agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the White House Office of Management and Budget, calling for a cross-agency plan to further fight FGM/C.

This letter included requests for resources to help law enforcement, health workers, and educators detect the practice here the United States, plus a hotline for girls who may be in danger of mutilation.

Given the abhorrent nature of this practice, states should have in place laws that require healthcare professionals, school employees, and other professionals who work with children to report any suspected practice of female genital mutilation to the appropriate law enforcement entity.

FGM/C is currently a crime in 26 States, including Michigan and Texas; it is also a Federal crime.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated, cut, every hour, and an estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM/C.

Even though, FGM/C has been banned in the United States, since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice.

It is with great concern that I stand before you today, still fighting to eradicate the practice of FGM/C globally.

Even more concerning is recently, The Justice Department stopped defending a federal prohibition on female genital mutilation making it difficult to combat this practice here at home.

This recalcitrant act coincides with an emerging view inside the Justice Department that it is up to the Trump administration, not members of Congress, to decide whether a law has merit and should be enforced.

The World Health Organization has asserted that FGM/C has no health benefits for women and girls, and can have long-term negative impacts on the physical, psychological, sexual, reproductive health, and to their general well-being.

We cannot be indifferent to this human rights violation that puts so many lives at risk, here in the United States, and around the world.

H. Res. 106 makes clear that this practice is rooted in gender inequality, gender-based violence, and discrimination.

It affirms our dedication to protecting women and girls globally and will help us accelerate eradication and improve access to care for survivors of this practice.

Because this intolerable practice has no medical benefits, it has no place in our society, and those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this clearly bipartisan resolution.

Put aside partisanship and protect our women and girls from this painful and archaic practice.

CONGRATULATING GAYE DUNN FOR WINNING MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD GIVEN BY THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaye Dunn for winning the Middle/Junior High School Counselor of the Year Award given by the Illinois School Counselors Association. Ms. Dunn will be retiring after 42 years in the education system and has been a school counselor in the East Moline School District for more than 25 years.

Ms. Dunn got her start at the University of Illinois and University of Kansas before going on to earn a master's degree in School Counseling from Eastern Illinois University. During the course of her career, Ms. Dunn has earned a reputation among her peers as a team player who will do anything to improve her community. Ms. Dunn dedicated herself to being a positive resource for the students of Glenview Middle School and someone they can turn to. The "Builders Club" was established by Ms. Dunn to fundraise and provide gifts to other students and families in the area. Additionally, she initiated GBAY, which operates in a similar concept to EBAY, where students donate and then bid for holiday presents for community members. Annual Career Fairs are also a tradition jumpstarted by Ms. Dunn and have even included visits by students to local nursing homes. Ms. Dunn is an asset to the East Moline community and her students, and I thank her for all of her tremendous work.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Ms. Dunn that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Gaye Dunn for winning the Counselor of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MEGAN BRESLIN

### HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Megan Breslin in honor of her presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Megan has shown her excellence on the bas-

ketball court and golf links while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can't think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Megan Breslin and commend her for her hard work in and out of the classroom.

IN MEMORY OF DEBBY HAY SPRADLEY

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman COLIN ALLRED, to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Debby Hay Spradley, who passed away on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

A native Texan, Debby graduated from Southern Methodist University and spent the entirety of her professional career in the Dallas area, first as President of the Hay Agency, Inc., and then as the Director of Development and External Affairs at the Hockaday School. She was respected in the Dallas community for her wisdom as a mentor, her generosity as a volunteer, and her leadership as an administrator.

She began her work with the school in the early 1980s as a parent volunteer before eventually joining the administrative team. During her tenure, Debby served as both a Member and the Chair of the Board of Trustees; was a Member of the Leadership Team for the Hockaday Tomorrow Capital Campaign and the Campaign Executive Committee for the Centennial Campaign; Co-Chaired the 2004 HP A Benefit; Chaired the Annual Fund Campaign; and was rightfully named an Honorary Alum in 2000. We admire and honor Debby's selfless dedication to the Hockaday School.

Debby is survived by her husband Webb; daughter Jessica Werner Epperson and her husband Doug Epperson; daughter Rachel Hay Spradley and her fiancé Jonathan Ben-Horin; and three wonderful granddaughters Kathryn, Virginia, and Margaret.

I ask my colleagues to join us in remembering Debby and her contributions to her family, her community, and the Hockaday School. The Dallas community is better off because of her. We will miss her dearly.

KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL EDITORIAL URGING TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY'S CEO TO FIX COAL ASH PROBLEM

### HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD an editorial submitted to the Knoxville News Sentinel addressing the Tennessee Valley Authority's new CEO, Jeff Lyash, urging him to fix the current coal ash problem. I am also including a resolution introduced by Tennessee State Senator



Ken Yager calling for the TVA to make all board meetings open to the public.

[From Knoxville News Sentinel, on Apr. 14, 2019]

AN OPEN LETTER TO TVA'S NEW CEO: YOU NEED TO BE THE LEADER YOUR PREDECESSOR WAS NOT, HERE'S HOW

(Unauthored Editorial)

Welcome to Tennessee, Mr. Lyash.

No doubt you had a busy first week as the new CEO of the Tennessee Valley Authority. And what a responsibility!

You lead the nation's first and largest regional planning and economic development agency owned and operated by the federal government.

You provide power for some 10 million people, and you employ thousands in our state. You've taken over an organization whose history and legacy are revolutionary and inspiring. Few organizations have transformed the lives of so many people, across so many generations. And we know you believe deeply in this mission, a mission derived from decades of service to improving the lives of the people of the Tennessee Valley.

This is what has brought you to Knoxville.

Which is why today we challenge you to be the leader your predecessor was not.

We challenge you to launch a fully independent and transparent investigation of safety and workplace practices that occurred in the aftermath of the massive Kingston coal ash spill and cleanup—not just the TVA's own practices, but those of every one of the contractors and subcontractors it employs. We've reported extensively about the workers who have died, and the hundreds of others who are sick, after their exposure to the toxic ash. Learn from the mistakes of the past and demand accountability.

We challenge you to commit to a top-to-bottom review and overhaul of workplace safety at every power plant you operate. Last week we reported about workers at two Tennessee plants who are exposed to fly ash dust and flue gas without masks or respirators.

We challenge you to review your relationship with Jacobs Engineering. Although the case goes on, a federal jury already found Jacobs breached its contract with the TVA and its duty to ensure the health of cleanup workers. Yet you're still doing hundreds of millions of dollars of business with the company.

We challenge you to hire an independent consultant to radically remake your internal reporting and whistle-blowing procedures and make sure they are accessible to your contractors as well. Your people are adamant no one should fear workplace retaliation, yet your workers are coming to us because they don't trust TVA.

We challenge you to rid the agency of double-speak and misdirection—where it's culturally acceptable to mislead the public, as Bill Johnson did when he said that the EPA, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and OSHA were on site daily during the Kingston cleanup. Today at the TVA it's acceptable for your official spokesman to recraft this as mere hyperbole.

Finally, we challenge you to visit your employees in the field. Talk to them. Not with an entourage, not with a phalanx of handlers who will hand-select the ones who'll say the "right" things to you. You need to hear the truth. You need to visit sick men in hospitals and listen to their stories. You need to sit down in the lunchroom with truck drivers who are around fly ash all day. You need to walk through the plant, see things yourself.

And then you need to do the right thing.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 192

By Senators Yager, Kurita, and Representative Powers

A Resolution to express support for the enactment of legislation that requires all board committee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors to be open to the public.

Whereas, established in 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies, serving ten million people in parts of seven southeastern states; and

Whereas, TVA also provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation; and

Whereas, Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett has introduced the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019, legislation to require that committee meetings and subcommittee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors be transparent and open to the public; and

Whereas, the bill would amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 Section 2(g)(2) to include a provision on transparency that would require meetings of the TVA Board to be held in public, properly noticed, and with minutes and summaries of each meeting made available; and

Whereas, it is vitally important to the citizens of Tennessee that TVA, as an entity created and protected by Congress, should conduct their business in the open and be as transparent as possible: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, The House of Representatives concurring,* That we strongly support the passage of the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019; and be it further

*Resolved,* That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress.

#### HONORING VICE ADMIRAL ALBERT CALLAND, III

#### HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the professional achievements of a fellow Zanesville High School graduate, Vice Admiral Albert (Bert) Calland, III.

Vice Admiral Calland is being commemorated in our hometown for his tremendous career, which has spanned many decades, and forms the model life of a selfless calling to public service in defense of this country. From the United States Navy to SEAL Team ONE, from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Counterterrorism Center to CACI International, Inc., Admiral Calland has always displayed the dedication of a consummate man of service.

After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1974, Admiral Calland distinguished himself in the ranks of the U.S. Navy and Special Operations Command, gaining the respect of juniors, peers, and superior

officers alike. His impressive qualities of hard work and strategic problem-solving helped Admiral Calland advance in his field. By the time of the terrorist attacks that devastated our nation on September 11, 2001, Admiral Calland was a key guiding force in the United States' fight against those who seek to do us harm.

As our hometown gathers to recognize this ardent patriot, I salute him for his ongoing service above self. Admiral Calland can take great pride in all he has accomplished and in the impact his legacy will leave. I thank Vice Admiral Calland for bringing honor to Zanesville, Ohio, and in turn, I honor him for his incredible record of achievement.

#### HONORING PETE RICHMOND

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete Richmond as the Napa Valley Grower of the Year for 2019.

Mr. Richmond's career in agriculture began in 1986 after earning a degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno. He gained valuable experience as a viticulturist while working at Bien Nacido Vineyards. Mr. Richmond went on to work for many prestigious wineries. In 1992 he was at Stag's Leap Winery; he worked at Atlas Peak Winery from 1993 to 1995; from 1995 to 2001 he was at Kendall Jackson. Mr. Richmond founded the Silverado Farming Company, a vineyard management company, in 2001. Many of the finest wineries and vineyards in the Napa Valley contract with Silverado Farming Company to manage their vineyards. The company oversees vineyard management for over 650 acres of grapes.

Mr. Richmond's passion for agriculture is not confined to the vineyard. He is involved in our community—through his philanthropic contributions and the Boards on which he sits. In 2006, Mr. Richmond established the One Percent for the Community Fund, a foundation that receives one percent of gross revenue profits made by the Silverado Farming Company. The foundation uses the money to support at-risk youth in our community and helps find a solution for a variety of issues that impact farm workers. Mr. Richmond is on the Farmworker Foundation Board of Directors, OLE Health Operating Board, and the OLE Health Foundation Board. He is also an Advisory Board Member for Teens Connect, a member of the Marketing Committee for the Napa Valley Community Foundation, and a past member of the Napa Valley Grapegrower's Board of Directors. He is active in the housing community as a member of Napa Valley Community Housing and Napa County Housing Commission. Mr. Richmond is also involved with Ag for Youth and is a former Babe Ruth Baseball League Coach.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Richmond is the community member we should all strive to be. He is a person of integrity, is generous and caring, and well-deserving of the title Napa Valley 2019 Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Pete Richmond here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSEMARIE  
MYRDAL

### HON. KELLY ARMSTRONG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent and public servant, Rosemarie Myrdal.

Rosemarie's tremendous career and life is a testament to her strong spirit, hard work, and determination.

Rosemarie was born in Minot in 1929, graduated from Fargo Central High School, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from North Dakota Agricultural College. She married John Myrdal in 1952 and the couple began farming near Edinburg and raising five children.

Rosemarie's public service to the state began in 1984, when she was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives. In 1992, Rosemarie was elected as the first Republican woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor in North Dakota history. She served alongside Governor Ed Schafer from 1992 to 2000.

Rosemarie continued her service to her community after her terms as Lieutenant Governor, staying active in the Edinburg School Board, the Icelandic Communities Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the North Dakota Diabetes Association, the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, Preservation North Dakota, and Red River Resource Conservation and Development.

May 19 was Rosemarie's 90th birthday. On this special occasion, I send her warmest greetings on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and blessings to her and her family.

### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of the 19th amendment.

Such an achievement as women's suffrage, long overdue, was not the result of one grand swoop of action. It took a million little steps from women across the country. A million little steps from women who wore the sash or carried the torch in their own way, a million little steps from those who marched in the streets or stood up for their place in the direction of our country.

Let us follow their example today.

I am reminded of my mother. In 1933, at the age of 20, she wrote a charge for women. It was just over a decade after the 19th amendment. She wrote, and I quote:

"It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our

place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-fore stronghold of the male sex: politics.

"I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard."

It will take another million little steps to move this country forward in all the ways it must. On health care, on reproductive rights, on equal pay, on education, and more. So, come on girls, let us make ourselves heard.

### COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the women's right to vote.

Madam Speaker I am the youngest of 12, raised by a single mother on a Social Security check. To say I understand the power of women would be an understatement.

That is why today, on the centennial anniversary, I rise to applaud and celebrate the passage of the 19th amendment which gave women in this country the right to vote.

Representing Seneca Falls, NY I understand all that generations of brave and intelligent women went through to bring us to the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote.

The Seneca Falls Convention, right in New York 23, was the first women's rights convention in the United States.

Held in July 1848, the meeting launched the women's suffrage movement, which more than seven decades later ensured women the right to vote.

Despite scarce publicity, 300 people—mostly area residents—showed up. There this group of strong women demanded the right to vote sparking a 70-year push for this essential right.

But the fight is not over.

This is why I have been a strong advocate of the equal rights amendment. We are so close to ratification with just 1 more state needed to ratify.

So as I stand here with this yellow rose on my lapel signaling my support for women's right to vote, I want everyone to know this rose means much more to me.

It means my support of equal rights to women.

### IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN SUTTON

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a veteran of the U.S. Army from Independence, Missouri, for his heroism and dedication to a life long career serving our country. As a young boy in Hutchinson, Kan-

sas, brave soldiers inspired Mr. Sutton to join the ranks of the millions of women and men serving in our military.

A man of unwavering grit and tenacity, Mr. Sutton was not discouraged when his application to join the Army and Navy Air Corps was denied due to his color-blindness. He was studying at the University of Kansas when he was drafted into the Army in 1944. After his conscription, Mr. Sutton attended West Point and received his Bachelor of Science in 1949 from the Army Engineering school. This wealth of knowledge eventually led Mr. Sutton and his wife Dana to travel internationally to Germany with the Army.

Using his engineering skills and personal fortitude, Mr. Sutton served the U.S. Army's Engineering and Transportation units in Germany. During his time there, Mr. Sutton worked with an all-black Engineering Battalion where he learned the meaning of service and brotherhood. To this day, Mr. Sutton cherishes the time he spent with that battalion. Years later, Mr. Sutton honored his time spent with the battalion by creating a course focusing on Black Men in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Sutton eventually returned to the U.S. and furthered his education by receiving a Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Transportation Management. Shortly thereafter, he once again served his country as a professor of mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for three years.

Mr. Sutton took classes until he was once again sent to Korea in the 1st Cavalry Division. Being both an energetic scholar and dedicated service member, Mr. Sutton eventually returned to Virginia to work for the Pentagon. At the Pentagon, he was an assistant to a three-star general, a position which led him to travel all around the world. For instance, this occurred when the U.S. Army sent Mr. Sutton to Vietnam, where he oversaw a battalion of 3,000 troops and spent countless days and nights living under the fear of an attack.

Upon his return to the States, he became a Colonel and was sent to Pennsylvania for 3 more years. After teaching and serving in Germany and Fort Leavenworth, Mr. Sutton was ready to return home to care for his family and his elderly parents. As a retiree from the Army, Mr. Sutton began working at Park University first as the supervisor of their Military Extension Program and later as the Assistant Dean of the University.

A man who pursues his passions and goals, Mr. Sutton received his private pilot's license and eventually bought his own plane. To this day, he flies his plane at Fort Leavenworth. Today, Mr. Sutton's extensive military history is honored at Veterans Hall in the Truman Memorial Building.

In addition to his 35 years of active duty service, he has been married for 69 years of marriage with two children, his five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Though their travels have taken them all over the world, we are fortunate to have Mr. Sutton and his wife call Independence, Missouri, their home.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulating Mr. Sutton for his 35 years of active duty service and outstanding accomplishments. It is with great respect that I urge all my colleagues and fellow citizens across the

country to join me in showing our appreciation to Mr. Sutton for his unwavering strength and dedication to our country.

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SUPPORTING H. RES. 354

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 354, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing this body. This centennial is a moment to celebrate the women who fought to make the right to vote a reality for all women and to honor their dedication to our nation. As we gather to reflect on this important cause, it is important to recognize that because of generations of women's commitment to our democracy, today I serve along with a record number of women in the United States Congress.

As a Member of Congress, I recognize that the right to vote is the most precious right of any American citizen. It is the collective responsibility of all today to preserve what generations of women before us fought to earn, and I am committed to continuing this great

legacy for the sake of this country and the future of our democracy.

Even with these historic moments, our work is far from over as women still struggle for the right to equal pay and the right to affordable health care. Today, let us reaffirm our commitment to removing barriers that prevent women in America and around the world from achieving their full potential.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution honoring the centennial of the House passage of the 19th Amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

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HONORING DENNIS PEDISICH

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Pedisich for his involvement with Community Health Initiative and his leadership in providing health insurance to residents of Napa County.

Mr. Pedisich has been active in our community since earning his Master in Business Administration from Santa Clara University. He sat on the Community Health Initiative Board of Directors for nine years. During his time on

the Board, he held many positions, including that of Vice President. Mr. Pedisich has selflessly given many hours of his time to Community Health Initiative, which has provided over 18,000 uninsured individuals with health insurance and access to care.

Mr. Pedisich has been active in our community in other positions as well. He has been the President of the Napa Valley College Foundation, the Justin-Siena High School Board of Trustees, and the Kiwanis Club of Napa Valley. He also sits on the Board of Trustees for the Queen of the Valley Medical Center. As the former President of Napa Community Bank and Vice President of Rabobank, Mr. Pedisich has shared his expertise of the finance community with the local non-profit sector and has helped many businesses thrive through his generosity with his time and knowledge.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Pedisich is an active member of our community who uses his expertise to assist others and help important local institutions, such as the Community Health Initiative, thrive. Community Health Initiative has been able to reach such a large number of Napa residents in no small part because of Mr. Pedisich. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Dennis Pedisich here today.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2985–S3015*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-two bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1553–1584, S. Res. 214–217, and S. Con. Res. 18.

**Pages S3004–05**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 151, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–41)

**Page S3004**

#### Measures Passed:

**Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act:** Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 1370, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax, and the bill was then passed.

**Page S2985**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the papers relative to S. 1370, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax, be held at the desk; that if the House of Representatives passes a bill identical to the text of S. 1370, passed by the Senate, the House bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that upon passage of the House bill, S. 1370 be indefinitely postponed.

**Page S2985**

**Recognizing Global Positioning System:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 216, recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

**Page S3012**

#### Appointments:

**Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs Speth of Kentucky.

**Page S3012**

**Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

**Page S3012**

**Nielson Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

**Page S2995**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 119), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Page S2995**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

**Pages S3012–13**

**Clark Nomination—Cloture:** By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 120), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

**Pages S2995–96**

**Nichols Nomination—Cloture:** By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 121), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

**Page S2996**

**Bell Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

**Page S2996**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 122), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S2996–99

**Nielson, Clark, Nichols, and Bell Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the confirmation votes on the nominations of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., Stephen R. Clark, Sr., Carl J. Nichols, and Kenneth D. Bell occur at 4:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Pages S3012–13

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 118), Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Pages S2987–94, S2994, S3015

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Rachel P. Kovner, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Lewis J. Liman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mary Kay Vyskocil, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S3013–15

**Messages from the House:**

Page S3002

**Measures Referred:**

Pages S3002–03

**Measures Held at the Desk:**

Page S3003

**Executive Communications:**

Page S3003

**Petitions and Memorials:**

Pages S3003–04

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S3005–08

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

Pages S3008–09

**Additional Statements:**

Page S3002

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

Page S3012

**Record Votes:** Five record votes were taken today. (Total—122)

Pages S2995–96

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S3012–13.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate change and the agriculture sector, after receiving testimony from Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Blythe Family Farms, LLC, White City, Kansas, on behalf of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; Frank Mitloehner, University of California Department of Animal Science, Davis; Matt Rezac, Rezac Farms, Weston, Nebraska; and former Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, United States Dairy Export Council, Arlington, Virginia.

### AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

### AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on SeaPower met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

### AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Personnel approved for full committee consideration

those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

#### **AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

#### **COMBATING ILLICIT FINANCING**

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating illicit financing by anonymous shell companies through the collection of beneficial ownership information, after receiving testimony from Kenneth A. Blanco, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and Grovetta N. Gardineer, Senior Deputy Comptroller for Bank Supervision Policy and Community Affairs, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, both of the Department of the Treasury; and Steven M. D'Antuono, Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in the United States, after receiving testimony from Daniel R. Simmons, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Martin Keller, Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, both of the Department of Energy; Dan Conant, Solar Holler, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Jason Hartke, Alliance to Save Energy, Washington, D.C.; and Bruno C. Grunau, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Fairbanks, Alaska.

#### **NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for

Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

#### **GAO ANNUAL DUPLICATION REPORT**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management concluded a hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office's annual duplication report, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

#### **DIGITAL ADVERTISING ECOSYSTEM**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the digital advertising ecosystem and the impact of data privacy and competition policy, after receiving testimony from Avi Goldfarb, University of Toronto Rotman School of Management, Toronto, Canada; Fiona Scott Morton, Yale School of Management, New Haven, Connecticut; Brian O'Kelley, AppNexus Inc., New York, New York; Johnny Ryan, Brave, London, United Kingdom; and Jan M. Rybníček, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Washington, D.C.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

#### **INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 32 public bills, H.R. 2856–2887; and 4 resolutions, H.

Con. Res. 40; and H. Res. 391–393, were introduced. **Pages H4063–64**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H4065–66**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:



Supplemental Report on H.R. 1947, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act (H. Rept. 116–76, Part 2). **Page H4063**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Lawrence to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4013**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H4019**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA. **Page H4019**

**Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States:** The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 354, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States. **Page H4024**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2:27 p.m. **Page H4030**

**Consumers First Act and Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019—Rule for consideration:** The House agreed to H. Res. 389, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 221, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 220. **Pages H4024–30, H4030–31**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Whole Veteran Act:** H.R. 2359, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation; **Pages H4032–34**

**Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act:** H.R. 1812, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals; **Pages H4034–35**

**Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William Bill Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of**

**2019:** H.R. 2326, amended, to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces; **Pages H4035–39**

**Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act:** H.R. 2333, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators; **Pages H4039–41**

**Fostering Intergovernmental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act:** H.R. 2340, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility; **Pages H4041–42**

**Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019:** H.R. 1200, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, 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; **Pages H4042–43**

**Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act:** H.R. 2372, amended, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services; **Pages H4043–45**

**Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act of 2019:** H.R. 2045, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H4045–48**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes." **Page H4048**

**Amending title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of**

*chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act:* H.R. 1947, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act;

Pages H4048–51

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, and for other purposes.”.

Page H4051

**Permission to File Report:** Agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 1947, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act.

Page H4049

**Consensus Calendar:** Representative Courtney presented to the clerk a motion to place on the Consensus Calendar the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, it having accumulated 290 cosponsors.

Page H4063

**Senate Referral:** S. 163 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Page H4061

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4024.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4030–31 and H4031. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### TO REVIEW ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing entitled “To Review Animal Pest and Disease Prevention and Response Capabilities”. Testimony was heard from Greg Ibach, Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Appropriations:* Full Committee held a markup on the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020; and the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, and the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020 were ordered reported, as amended.

### MILITARY AND VETERAN SUICIDE: UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Military Personnel; and Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a joint hearing entitled “Military and Veteran Suicide: Understanding the Problem and Preparing for the Future”. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth P. Van Winkle, Executive Director, Office of Force Resiliency, Department of Defense; Captain Mike Colston, M.D., U.S. Navy, Director, Mental Health Policy and Oversight, Department of Defense; Keita Franklin, National Director of Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael W. Fischer, Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

### ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT: OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

*Committee on Education and Labor:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Eliminating Barriers to Employment: Opening Doors to Opportunity”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### UNDERMINING MERCURY PROTECTIONS: EPA ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Undermining Mercury Protections: EPA Endangers Human Health and the Environment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### IMPROVING DRUG PRICING TRANSPARENCY AND LOWERING PRICES FOR AMERICAN CONSUMERS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Housing in America: Oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, M.D., Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY: KREMLIN TOOLS OF MALIGN POLITICAL INFLUENCE**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy held a hearing entitled “Undermining Democracy: Kremlin Tools of Malign Political Influence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE TSA WORKFORCE CRISIS: A HOMELAND SECURITY RISK**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “The TSA Workforce Crisis: A Homeland Security Risk”. Testimony was heard from John V. Kelly, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

**GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING THE CYBER TALENT PIPELINE**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Growing and Diversifying the Cyber Talent Pipeline”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**OVERSIGHT OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Election Assistance Commission”. Testimony was heard from the following U.S. Election Assistance Commission officials: Christy McCormick, Commissioner and Chairwoman; Benjamin Hovland, Commissioner and Vice Chair; Don Palmer, Commissioner; and Thomas Hicks, Commissioner.

**OVERSIGHT OF THE REPORT BY SPECIAL COUNSEL ROBERT S. MUELLER, III: FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL DONALD F. MCGAHN, II**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Report by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III: Former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn, II”.

**EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “Examining the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Deputy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Margaret Everson, Principle Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**TRUMP’S WAR ON A MERIT BASED CIVIL SERVICE**

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Trump’s War on a Merit Based Civil Service”. Testimony was heard from Margaret Weichert, Deputy Director of Management, Office of Management and Budget, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management; Triana McNeil, Acting Director of Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Norbert E. Vint, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Office of Personnel Management; and public witnesses.

**THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE: PREPARING AMERICA’S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled “The Need for Resilience: Preparing America’s Transportation Infrastructure for Climate Change”. Testimony was heard from Susanne DesRoches, Deputy Director for Infrastructure and Energy, New York City Mayor’s Office of Resiliency and Office of Sustainability; Jason D. Averill, Chief of the Materials and Structural Systems Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

**INVESTING IN COMMUNITY: THE SBA’S COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM**

*Committee on Small Business:* Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulation held a hearing entitled “Investing in Community: The SBA’s Community Advantage Loan Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Karl P. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Master Chief Jason M. Vanderhaden, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration; and Michael A. Khouri, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission.

## PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Porter and Rogers of Washington; and public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Missile Defense Agency, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Armed Services:* closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9 a.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine legislation to address the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 9:45 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold closed hearings to examine the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, 10:15 a.m., SVC-217.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, S. 249, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer

status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, S. 1025, to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.R. 31, to require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, S. Res. 74, marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine, S. Res. 81, calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, S. Res. 135, expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II, S. Res. 184, condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka, S. Res. 188, encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, the nominations of Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Matthew S. Klimow, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, and John Jefferson Daigle, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, all of Department of State, a routine list in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business, 1:45 p.m., S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Michael S. Bogren, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jason K. Pulliam, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Frank William Volk, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, and David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental

Affairs, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, to hold hearings to examine S. 123, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, S. 221, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, S. 318, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, S. 450, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, S. 514, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, S. 524, to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, S. 711, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, S. 746, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, S. 785, to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 805, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, S. 850, to extend the authorization of appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of awarding grants to veterans service organizations for the transportation of highly rural veterans, S. 857, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, S. 980, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, S. 1101, to ensure that only licensed health care providers furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1154, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an electronic health record, an original bill entitled, "Janey Enslinger Act of 2019", and an

original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

*Special Committee on Aging*, to hold hearings to examine aging and disability in the 21st century, focusing on how technology can help maintain health and quality of life, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

## House

*Committee on Appropriations*, Full Committee, markup on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020; and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Labor*, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled "Engines of Economic Mobility: The Critical Role of Community Colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions in Preparing Students for Success", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "LIFT America: Modernizing Our Infrastructure for the Future", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Annual Testimony of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System, Part II", 8:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Searching for Solutions in Syria: The Trump Administration's Strategy", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2615, the "United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act"; H.R. 2744, the "USAID Branding Modernization Act"; H.R. 598, the "Georgia Support Act"; H.R. 2140, the "Preventing Child Marriage Act"; H.R. 2023, the "Protect European Energy Security Act"; H.R. 2046, the "Energy Diplomacy Act"; H. Res. 129, condemning the Government of Saudi Arabia's continued detention and alleged abuse of women's rights activists; H. Res. 372, expressing concern for the United States-Turkey alliance; H. Res. 345, recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "A Review of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security", 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2820, the "Dream Act of 2019"; H.R. 2821, the "American Promise Act of 2019"; H.R. 549, the "Venezuela TPS Act of 2019", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R.

182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; H.R. 307, the “Preserving America’s Battlefields Act”; H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1088, the “FIRST Act”; H.R. 1130, the “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act”; H.R. 1179, the “African-American Burial Grounds Network Act”; H.R. 1248, the “York River Wild and Scenic River Act of 2019”; H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; H.R. 1487, the “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”; H.R. 1727, the “Complete America’s Great Trails Act”; H.R. 2369, the “Long Island Aviation History Act”; H.R. 2427, the “Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 2525, to establish the Steel Valley National Heritage Area in the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Responding to the Global Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Facial Recognition Technology (Part 1): Its Impact on our Civil Rights and Liberties”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining For-Profit College Oversight and Student Debt”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security Hearing, hearing entitled “Securing U.S. Election Infrastructure and Protecting Political Discourse”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Immigration and the Small Business Workforce”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Policies, Recommendations, and Impacts of the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Disaster Preparedness: DRRRA Implementation and FEMA Readiness”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, joint hearing entitled “MISSION Critical: Caring for our Heroes”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Improving the Department of Veterans Affairs Effectiveness: Responding to Recommendations from Oversight Agencies”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Enforcement in the New NAFTA”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee Vote on Enforcement Action regarding the Subpoena Issued by the Committee to the Attorney General on May 8, 2019, for Foreign Intelligence, Counterintelligence and Other Information Related to the Special Counsel’s Investigation, 9:30 a.m., HVC–304. This meeting is closed.

### Joint Meetings

*Joint Economic Committee*: to hold hearings to examine the economic impacts of the 2020 Census and business uses of Federal data, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.



*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. At 4:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1500—Consumers First Act (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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