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No. 121

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.  
July 18, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM MALINOWSKI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

This has been a difficult and contentious week in which darker spirits seem to have been at play in the people's House.

In Your most Holy name, I now cast out all spirits of darkness from this Chamber, spirits not from You.

I cast out the spirit of discouragement, which deadens the hope of those who are of good will.

I cast out the spirit of petty divisiveness, which clouds the sense and the desire to be of fruitful productivity in addressing the issues more appropriately before this House.

I cast out any sadness brought on by the frustration of dealing with matters detrimental to the honorable work each Member has been called to engage in.

Pour out, O Lord, Your sacred oil, as You did upon Aaron of old. Anoint Your servants here in the House with a healing balm to comfort and renew the souls of all in this assembly.

May Your spirit of wisdom and patience descend upon all, so that any

spirit of darkness might have no place in our midst.

Rather, let Your spirit of comity, of brother and sisterhood, and love of our Nation and of all colleagues in this Chamber, empower our better angels to be at play in the common work to be done for the benefit of all Your people.

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

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### STAND UP AGAINST BIGOTRY AND HATE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise with love of country in my heart, understanding that, Mr. Speaker, we have gone from "lock her up" to "Jews will not replace us," to now "send her back."

"Send her back."  
Mr. Speaker, bigotry, hate is on the rise in the country, and I am so proud of the 95 persons who, yesterday, voted against bigotry and hate. We must not allow this to continue.

We now are moving on; we are marching on until victory is won. We first had 58, then we had 66. Now, we have 95. We are marching on to 212.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me close with this: This is an important time in our country. These are dangerous times. Every Member of this House needs additional security. I am going to file a bill asking for more security for the Members of this House.

Leadership has adequate security. Members do not have adequate security. I want to thwart the efforts of those who might want to harm a Member of this House.

### HONORING NEIL ARMSTRONG

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

□ 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of Cincinnati, Ohio, I rise this morning to recognize an Ohioan who was a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to that, he was a naval aviator, a test pilot, and, later, an astronaut.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, the words he spoke now reside in history: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Everyone on Earth at that time remembers where he or she was when Neil Armstrong took that step. His contributions to space exploration did not end on the surface of the Moon. Neil Armstrong was also on the team that investigated the *Apollo 13* accident, and he was vice chairman of the commission that investigated the space shuttle Challenger disaster.

Ohioan Neil Armstrong is a true American hero, and his extraordinary service to our country—to all of humankind, really—will be forever remembered.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF PHIL FREELON

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Freelon, who passed away on July 9 at his home in Durham, North Carolina.

While attending Central High School in Philadelphia, he was drawn to art and the technique of designing and building. He was one of two Black architect students at North Carolina State University's College of Design, where he had a passion for increasing diversity within his profession.

One of his major contributions to our Nation was the building of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the passing of Mr. Freelon, but his legacy and passion lives on to educate and empower the next generation of architects.

#### NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this Saturday, July 20, as National Pennsylvania Day.

The Keystone State has played a historic role in our Nation's founding and continues to shape our future. It is the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and home to our Nation's very first capital, Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania is also the site of several historic battles, including the Battle of Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Gettys-

burg during the Civil War. It is where Betsy Ross handcrafted the first American flag and Colonel Edwin Drake drilled the first commercial oil well, in 1859.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of American craftsmanship and work ethic, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmlands and forests.

This great State's many contributions to our Nation are a strong testament to the diverse, industrious citizens who make up this Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, today and every day, I am proud to call Pennsylvania my home.

#### HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents, Bob and Cathy, who shared their story recently with me at a roundtable discussion in Manchester.

When Bob was in need of a kidney transplant, his wife, Cathy, was a match, and she donated her own kidney to overcome extensive wait times. Today, 15 years after Bob's successful surgery, he must continue to take antirejection drugs. This prescription has always been covered by Cathy's private insurance.

Even as Bob and Cathy are near retirement age, retirement is not an option for them, because Bob's life is dependent on a prescription drug that costs \$3,000 a month out of pocket.

Nobody in America should be deprived the dignity of retirement after a lifetime of hard work because of the outrageous costs of lifesaving drugs. I am committed to working with my colleagues to ease the significant burden and anxiety that so many Americans unnecessarily face every day.

We must tackle the high cost of prescription drugs now. The American people are counting on us to do just that.

#### VALERIE CALHOUN: A TENNESSEE JOURNALISM LEGEND

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valerie Calhoun.

Valerie is the cohost of "Good Morning Memphis" on WHBQ-TV, and she is the recipient of five Emmy awards. Most recently, Valerie was recognized and honored as an inductee into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

Anyone who knows Valerie Calhoun recognizes how well-deserved this honor is for her and her family. Valerie is someone who puts passion and dedication behind everything that she does.

Through Valerie's lifelong commitment to journalism, she has brought

news from around the world into every home in Memphis, west Tennessee, and the Memphis metropolitan community.

On top of her skills in journalism, Valerie and her family have become an integral part of the Memphis community through their volunteer work. You can always find Valerie and her husband, John, volunteering at Southern Reins, at Beau's school, and hosting numerous charitable events throughout the community.

Through her hard work and dedication to journalism, Valerie has become an inspiration to many looking to make their career in broadcasting and in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Valerie on her induction into the Tennessee Hall of Fame.

#### HONORING JANE BLOCK

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a dear friend whom I greatly admire, Jane Block.

Jane has dedicated her life to our community, to activism, and to making our society more just and equal for everyone.

She has been instrumental in leading the women's movement in Riverside by serving on the committee that led to the founding of UCR's Women's Resource Center and chairing the Riverside County Commission on the Status of Women.

Apart from her work to advance women's issues, Jane is president of the Riverside Land Conservancy and has helped to establish the Box Springs Mountain Reserve in Moreno Valley, which declared the region as a park instead of a development area.

Jane's work has not gone unnoticed, and my district is a better place because of her. It is an honor not only to have her as a member of my community, but also to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Jane a happy 90th birthday.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "APOLLO 11"

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, in July of 1969, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins achieved something once thought impossible: successfully landing on the Moon and returning safely to the Earth.

They succeeded despite the many dangers they faced and the countless things that could have gone wrong during their pioneering 240,000-mile journey.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of *Apollo 11*, I take special pride in representing Neil Armstrong's birthplace, Wapakoneta, Ohio, home of the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum.

The museum has on display many artifacts from the mission and other

items from Mr. Armstrong's life and career. The museum's yearlong celebration of the *Apollo 11* anniversary culminates this weekend in a series of events, ranging from meet-and-greets with active and retired astronauts to the Run to the Moon 5k and 10k races, special exhibits at the museum, and the grand finale concert.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Armstrong died in 2012 at the age of 82, but the impact of his journey is still felt today in rural Auglaize County, Ohio, and throughout the world.

I am pleased to join the people of Wapakoneta in celebrating the man who took a small step but left a giant legacy.

□ 0915

#### END SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate an important milestone in the fight to protect patients from unfair and expensive surprise medical bills.

For too many middle-class families, receiving an unexpected and very expensive bill from an out-of-network provider is devastating and can lead to severe anxiety, depression, and financial ruin.

That is why, yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed H.R. 3630, the No Surprises Act, a bill that will protect millions of hardworking Americans from receiving a surprise medical bill through no fault of their own.

I am fighting to end surprise medical bills once and for all. The No Surprises Act includes my bipartisan amendment to create an independent arbitration process that keeps patients out of the middle and off the hook for surprise medical bills.

As an emergency medicine physician, my life's work has been about putting patients first, and I am still fighting to put their health above all else.

I thank Chairman PALLONE for leading an open, inclusive, and collaborative process that has brought us one step closer to a bipartisan solution that protects patients and ends surprise medical bills.

#### WORK ON KITCHEN-TABLE ISSUES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in Matthew in the New Testament, it talks about: "You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit."

Mr. Speaker, the tree of the House of Representatives hasn't borne much fruit this week. At a time of hurricane

and floods, the continued border crisis exacerbated by inaction on properly defining "asylum" or "legal immigration," instead of the kitchen-table issues families sent us to work on, we get impeachment questions that, for all the hype, barely mustered one-fifth of House votes to not table that discussion. Next week is another round of Robert Mueller, after 2 years and tens of millions of dollars of drilling a dry well.

Mr. Speaker, for those who watch this House, our constituents, to actually feel embarrassed by its governing, even causing our Speaker pro tempore to abandon the Chair—out of privilege, I believe—over this infighting, we have some serious self-contemplation and soul-searching to do as a body to uphold the dignity of this institution, not just change the rules to support the inappropriate language of its leaders of this House or attack our close ally Israel with a BDS resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we will be recognized by the fruits we produce in this body.

#### RAISE THE WAGE ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 492, I call up the bill (H.R. 582) to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-155, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 582

*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 "Raise the Wage Act".*

#### SEC. 2. MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

"(A) \$8.40 an hour, beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act;

"(B) \$9.50 an hour, beginning 1 year after such effective date;

"(C) \$10.60 an hour, beginning 2 years after such effective date;

"(D) \$11.70 an hour, beginning 3 years after such effective date;

"(E) \$12.80 an hour, beginning 4 years after such effective date;

"(F) \$13.90 an hour, beginning 5 years after such effective date;

"(G) \$15.00 an hour, beginning 6 years after such effective date; and

"(H) beginning on the date that is 7 years after such effective date, and annually thereafter, the amount determined by the Secretary under subsection (h);";

(b) *DETERMINATION BASED ON INCREASE IN THE MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE OF ALL EMPLOYEES.*—

Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h)(1) Not later than each date that is 90 days before a new minimum wage determined under subsection (a)(1)(H) is to take effect, the Secretary shall determine the minimum wage to be in effect under this subsection for each period described in subsection (a)(1)(H). The wage determined under this subsection for a year shall be—

"(A) not less than the amount in effect under subsection (a)(1) on the date of such determination;

"(B) increased from such amount by the annual percentage increase, if any, in the median hourly wage of all employees as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

"(C) rounded up to the nearest multiple of \$0.05.

"(2) In calculating the annual percentage increase in the median hourly wage of all employees for purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall compile data on the hourly wages of all employees to determine such a median hourly wage and compare such median hourly wage for the most recent year for which data are available with the median hourly wage determined for the preceding year."

#### SEC. 3. TIPPED EMPLOYEES.

(a) *BASE MINIMUM WAGE FOR TIPPED EMPLOYEES AND TIPS RETAINED BY EMPLOYEES.*—Section 3(m)(2)(A)(i) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

"(i) the cash wage paid such employee, which for purposes of such determination shall be not less than—

"(I) for the 1-year period beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act, \$3.60 an hour;

"(II) for each succeeding 1-year period until the hourly wage under this clause equals the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, an hourly wage equal to the amount determined under this clause for the preceding year, increased by the lesser of—

"(aa) \$1.50; or

"(bb) the amount necessary for the wage in effect under this clause to equal the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, rounded up to the nearest multiple of \$0.05; and

"(III) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subclause (II), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1); and"

(b) *TIPS RETAINED BY EMPLOYEES.*—Section 3(m)(2)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of the matter following clause (ii), by striking "of this subsection, and all tips received by such employee have been retained by the employee" and inserting "of this subsection. Any employee shall have the right to retain any tips received by such employee"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "An employer shall inform each employee of the right and exception provided under the preceding sentence."

(c) *SCHEDULED REPEAL OF SEPARATE MINIMUM WAGE FOR TIPPED EMPLOYEES.*—

(1) *TIPPED EMPLOYEES.*—Section 3(m)(2)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended by striking the sentence beginning with "In determining the wage an employer is required to pay a tipped employee," and all that follows through "of this subsection." and inserting "The wage required to be paid to a tipped employee shall be the wage set forth in section 6(a)(1)."

(2) *PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.*—Subsection (i) of section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by section 5, is further amended by striking "or in accordance

with subclause (II) or (III) of section 3(m)(2)(A)(i)".

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall take effect on the date that is one day after the date on which the hourly wage under subclause (III) of section 3(m)(2)(A)(i) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(m)(2)(A)(i)), as amended by subsection (a), takes effect.

**SEC. 4. NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.**

(a) **BASE MINIMUM WAGE FOR NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.**—Section 6(g)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)(1)) is amended by striking "a wage which is not less than \$4.25 an hour." and inserting the following: "a wage at a rate that is not less than—

"(A) for the 1-year period beginning on the effective date under section 7 of the Raise the Wage Act, \$5.50 an hour;

"(B) for each succeeding 1-year period until the hourly wage under this paragraph equals the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, an hourly wage equal to the amount determined under this paragraph for the preceding year, increased by the lesser of—

"(i) \$1.25; or

"(ii) the amount necessary for the wage in effect under this paragraph to equal the wage in effect under section 6(a)(1) for such period, rounded up to the nearest multiple of \$0.05; and

"(C) for each succeeding 1-year period after the increase made pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii), the minimum wage in effect under section 6(a)(1)."

(b) **SCHEDULED REPEAL OF SEPARATE MINIMUM WAGE FOR NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6(g) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)), as amended by subsection (a), shall be repealed.

(2) **PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.**—Subsection (i) of section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by section 3(c)(2), is further amended by striking "or subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (g)(1)."

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The repeal and amendment made by paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, shall take effect on the date that is one day after the date on which the hourly wage under subparagraph (C) of section 6(g)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)(1)), as amended by subsection (a), takes effect.

**SEC. 5. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.**

Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by the preceding sections, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) Not later than 60 days prior to the effective date of any increase in the required wage determined under subsection (a)(1) or subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (g)(1), or in accordance with subclause (II) or (III) of section 3(m)(2)(A)(i) or section 14(c)(1)(A), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register and on the website of the Department of Labor a notice announcing each increase in such required wage."

**SEC. 6. PROMOTING ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

(a) **WAGES.**—

(1) **TRANSITION TO FAIR WAGES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 14(c)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) at a rate that equals, or exceeds, for each year, the greater of—

"(i)(I) \$4.25 an hour, beginning 1 year after the date the wage rate specified in section 6(a)(1)(A) takes effect;

"(II) \$6.40 an hour, beginning 2 years after such date;

"(III) \$8.55 an hour, beginning 3 years after such date;

"(IV) \$10.70 an hour, beginning 4 years after such date;

"(V) \$12.85 an hour, beginning 5 years after such date; and

"(VI) the wage rate in effect under section 6(a)(1), on the date that is 6 years after the date the wage specified in section 6(a)(1)(A) takes effect; or

"(ii) if applicable, the wage rate in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Raise the Wage Act for the employment, under a special certificate issued under this paragraph, of the individual for whom the wage rate is being determined under this subparagraph."

(2) **PROHIBITION ON NEW SPECIAL CERTIFICATES; SUNSET.**—Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)) (as amended by paragraph (1)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) **PROHIBITION ON NEW SPECIAL CERTIFICATES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not issue a special certificate under this subsection to an employer that was not issued a special certificate under this subsection before the date of enactment of the Raise the Wage Act.

"(7) **SUNSET.**—Beginning on the day after the date on which the wage rate described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(VI) takes effect, the authority to issue special certificates under paragraph (1) shall expire, and no special certificates issued under paragraph (1) shall have any legal effect.

"(8) **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.**—Upon request, the Secretary shall provide—

"(A) technical assistance and information to employers issued a special certificate under this subsection for the purposes of—

"(i) transitioning the practices of such employers to comply with this subsection, as amended by the Raise the Wage Act; and

"(ii) ensuring continuing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities receiving a special minimum wage rate under this subsection; and

"(B) information to individuals employed at a special minimum wage rate under this subsection, which may include referrals to Federal or State entities with expertise in competitive integrated employment."

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.**—

(1) **AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (i) of section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206), as amended by section 4(b)(2), is further amended by striking "or section 14(c)(1)(A)."

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the day after the date on which the wage rate described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(VI) of section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)), as amended by subsection (a)(1), takes effect.

**SEC. 7. GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Act or the amendments made by this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect—

(1) subject to paragraph (2), on the first day of the third month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) with respect to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on the date that is 18 months after the effective date described in paragraph (1).

**SEC. 8. GAO REPORT.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Education and Labor Committee of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that, with respect to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—

(1) assesses the status and structure of the economy (including employment, earnings and wages, and key industries); and

(2) for each year in which a wage increase will take effect under subsection (a)(1) or (g)(1) of section 6, section 3(m)(2)(A)(i), or section 14(c)(1)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended by this Act, estimates the proportion of employees who will be directly affected by each such wage increase taking effect for such year, disaggregated by industry and occupation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part B of House Report 116-155, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the idea behind the Federal minimum wage is simple: Hard-working Americans should be paid at least enough to provide for themselves and their families.

After more than a decade with no increase in the minimum wage, the longest stretch since the minimum wage was established in 1938, it is no longer serving that purpose.

Today, the Federal minimum wage is a poverty wage in every region of our Nation. Our Nation's workers deserve better.

The Raise the Wage Act, H.R. 582, gradually increases the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025. After 2025, this legislation indexes future increases to the minimum wage to increases in the median wage so that the value does not erode over time. It gradually phases out the subminimum wages to ensure that tipped workers, youth workers, and workers with disabilities are paid at least the full Federal minimum wage.

The benefits of this legislation are significant and widespread. Economic analysis estimates that the Raise the Wage Act would increase wages for up to 33 million workers and lift 1.3 million Americans out of poverty.

The Raise the Wage Act is not just good for workers. It is good for the economy.

While the Republican tax bill gave the largest benefits to corporations and the wealthy, this bill puts money directly into the hands of workers, who will spend that money in their communities.

Today is a historic day. For the first time in more than 12 years, the House is voting to restore the value of the Federal minimum wage and restore the value of work in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support the Raise the Wage Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in complete opposition to H.R. 582, a radical, risky, and unnecessary bill that puts party politics above the best interests of American workers and their families.

Increasing the Federal minimum wage by 107 percent is a harmful and unprecedented mandate that would result in millions of job losses for vulnerable Americans, small business closures, and significant damage to the U.S. economy.

A detailed study issued this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates a \$15 minimum wage would cause up to 3.7 million lost jobs—3.7 million jobs. One job lost is too many; 3.7 million jobs lost is unconscionable.

Those hurt the most by this bill would be female workers, young workers, and those with less than a high school diploma.

In our committee earlier this year, we heard testimony from Ms. Simone Barron, a restaurant worker from Seattle, Washington, where the minimum wage has already been raised to \$15 per hour. Simone said that, after the city of Seattle raised the minimum wage, her employer moved her from standard a tip line to a service charge model, which resulted in her taking home less pay.

Small businesses will also suffer if this far-left policy is implemented. Without the cash reserves or profit margins to absorb the increase in labor costs, small businesses will have a choice of several bad options. Among their choices are laying off workers, raising prices on their customers, replacing workers with robots, or going out of business.

The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that businesses with fewer than 500 employees will account for 57 percent of job losses, and businesses with fewer than 100 employees will account for 43 percent of job losses.

Still, my Democratic colleagues are trying to sell this radical wage hike by claiming it will redistribute wealth and provide poor Americans with a “living wage.” Yet, the CBO predicts that, by 2025, there would be a \$9 billion net reduction in family income resulting from a \$15 minimum wage. This so-called raise would reduce pay for many American families.

Let’s not forget, the U.S. economy is booming, and lesser-skilled workers are benefiting. Earlier this month, The Wall Street Journal reported that “wages are rising at the fastest rate in a decade for lower-skilled workers, and unemployment among less-educated Americans and minorities is near a record low.”

We know from the latest jobs report that progrowth policies like the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and eliminating unnecessary regulations are raising wages, adding jobs, and reducing unemployment.

With 7.3 million unfilled jobs nationwide, job creators know they must offer competitive wages and benefits to attract and retain workers, so it is bewildering that Democrats refuse to acknowledge or celebrate the victories of our present economy and continue to call for socialist policies. Instead, they want to pass this ill-advised legislation, which would wreak havoc on the economic progress we have achieved over the last few years.

The cost of living in New York City is much higher than the cost of living in my hometown in North Carolina. With such disparities in the cost of living across the country, mandating a one-size-fits-all wage hike will cause job losses and harm entry-level workers in many regions around the country.

Even President Obama’s former chairman of economic advisers, Alan Krueger, argued in October 2015 that raising the minimum wage to \$15 would “put us in uncharted waters and risk undesirable and unintended consequences.”

H.R. 582 is deeply irresponsible. Workers, families, small businesses, and the U.S. economy will suffer as a direct result of this drastic mandate.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that a vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 37 percent of workers in her district of North Carolina a raise of about \$3,800 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the chair of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding.

The Federal minimum wage has been stagnant for too long, exacerbating income inequality and leaving working families behind.

A recent study from the National Low Income Housing Coalition found that someone working 40 hours a week who is earning the Federal minimum wage or the prevailing State minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent in any State, metropolitan area, or county in the country.

Workers working full-time should be able to afford basic needs like food, housing, healthcare, and childcare.

Today, we can support working families by passing the Raise the Wage Act. This bill will gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 and make sure that tipped workers, youth, and individuals with disabilities are paid a full, not a subminimum, wage.

Recent analysis from the Economic Policy Institute found that raising the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour would benefit close to 27,000 workers just in northwest Oregon alone.

The Raise the Wage Act is good for workers and good for the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise in favor of upward mobility. I rise in favor of greater opportunity. But this bill doesn’t do that. I rise in opposition to this underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, increasing the Federal minimum wage by 107 percent is an extreme and unprecedented policy that will have a severe and negative impact on many American families, our Nation’s workforce, our economy, and once again, most importantly, hard-working American families.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, if enacted, this legislation would cause approximately 3.7 million workers—let’s extrapolate that to families—across this Nation to lose their jobs by 2025.

□ 0930

My home State of Pennsylvania has estimated that more than 120,000 individuals, thereby families, would be negatively impacted through the loss of their jobs. That is not upward mobility. That is downward mobility.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans, 54 percent, think losing up to 3.7 million jobs for a \$15 minimum wage is not a good idea. And 42 percent of families with a minimum-wage earner would see a net reduction in total family income under the \$15 minimum wage. That is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Speaker, that is totally unacceptable.

Now, I have always been a proponent of Federal policies that aim to lift individuals out of poverty and provide them with skills necessary to gain good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. We have done that in this body, and it is working.

We should be promoting bipartisan policies that are proven to enhance workforce development. For example, last Congress we passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, restoring rungs on a ladder of opportunity.

The President has signed that bill into law, and we are working diligently

with the States to ensure that they are doing everything possible to fill the 7.5 million open jobs in this country, most of them good, family-sustaining jobs.

We need to ensure that policies enhance job-training programs; so we are not talking about a minimum wage but, rather, arming individuals with skills to compete and to earn well above a minimum wage.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I yield the gentleman from Pennsylvania an additional 20 seconds.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 63 percent of Americans support our leadership expanding pathways to greater opportunity through CTE, the better way.

I want everyone who is willing to work in this country to succeed, but this legislation is not the answer. I encourage my colleagues to oppose the bill, and then we can talk after this debate so we can get to work on legislation to make sure job seekers have the skills to compete and succeed in the modern workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against the bill is a vote to deny about 38 percent of the workers in his district in Pennsylvania an average wage of about \$3,300 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the National Employment Law Project in support.

JULY 16, 2019.

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Patty Murray (WA), Representatives Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), Mark Pocan (WI) and Stephanie Murphy (FL).

If enacted, this legislation would:

Gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2025;

After 2025, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages;

Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991; and,

Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.

Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 will begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long-overdue raises to more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 35, nearly half have some years of college education. In fact, those who work year-round would see a raise in the order of \$3,000 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fastfood worker who today struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year.

28 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 58 percent of the workers who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 38 percent of African American workers and 33 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run—yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Sincerely,

RI Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); Raise Minimum Wages; Raise the Wage PA; Raise-Op Housing Cooperative; Refuge Ministries Tampa Bay; Regina Mundi Inc.; Religious Institute; Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan (ROC-MI); Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania; Restaurant Opportunities Centers United RESULTS Raleigh; RESULTS-Santa Fe; Rural Coalition; Rural Coalition & Alianza Nacional de Campesinas; Rural Community Workers Alliance; Sacramento Housing Alliance; Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness; SafeHouse Denver, Inc; San Diego Hunger Coalition; San Gabriel Valley-Whittier NOW.

Santa Fe NOW; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; Sconiers Homeless Preventive Organization Inc; Seattle Human Services Coalition; Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness; Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania; SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania; Service Employees International Union; Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS); Sherwood Community Services; SIA Legal Team; Sinsinawa Dominican Peace and Justice Office; Sister Reach; Sisters of Charity Federation; Sisters of Mercy in NH; Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community Justice Team; Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur; Sisters of St Joseph of Chabery Justice and Peace Committee; Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York; Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa Leadership Team.

Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate; Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO; Social Action Linking Together (SALT); SocioEnergetics Foundation; South Carolina Christian Action Council, Inc.; South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)/Duke University School of Law; Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.; Southern Poverty Law Center; Southfield Community Church; Southwest PA National Organization For Women; Southwest Women's Law Center; Sravasti Abbey; St. James Infirmary; St. Louis CLUW Chapter; St. Louis Gateway District Area Local—APWU 8; St. Louis Gateway District Area Local APWU—POWER Sisters; TASH; Tax Fairness Oregon; Tax March.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC); Tennessee Citizen Action; Tennessee Justice Center; Texas Employment Lawyers Association; THE ABCD, INC; The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis; The Farmworker Association of Florida; The Greater Boston Food Bank; The HUB for Progress; The Praxis Project; The Public Interest Law Project; The Washington Initiative for Supported Employment;

The Welcome Church; TMS Enterprises; Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith worker Justice Coalition; Transition Services, Inc.; Transport Workers Union of America; Treatment Action Group (TAG); Trillium Employment Services; Tzedek DC.

UCSF; UETHDA Head Start; Ultra Violet; UnidosUS; Union for Reform Judaism; Union of Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, USA UNIT; United Food and Commercial Workers International Union; United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227; United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75; United for a Fair Economy; United For Respect; United Steelworkers (USW); University Church; University of New Mexico Community and Regional Planning Department; Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency; URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Venmedia: A Nonprofit Media Enterprise; Virginia Employment Lawyers Association; Voices for Progress; Vote-Climate.

Wage Equality; Washington Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless; Washington State Budget & Policy Center; Washington State Community Action Partnership; Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice & the Environment; We The People—Pennsylvania; Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club; West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition; West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy; Western Center on Law and Poverty; Western NY Chapter Coalition of Labor Union Women; Western Pennsylvania Employment Lawyers Association (WPELA); WHEAT—World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training; Whitman-Walker Health; Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice; Women Employed; Women's Fund of Rhode Island; Women's Law Project; Worcester County Food Bank; Worker Justice Center of New York; Working Families Party; Working Partnerships USA; Workplace Fairness; Young Progressives Demanding Action; Youth Care; YWCA of the University of Illinois; YWCA Seattle/King/Snohomish; YWCA USA; YWCA Utah.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

There is currently no place in America where a worker making \$7.25 per hour can afford a two-bedroom apartment. Millions of families are struggling to make ends meet. As one of the richest countries in the world, we should be ashamed.

This bill will give 27 million workers a raise and lift 1.3 million people out of poverty. Helping low-income workers is long overdue.

Contrary to what my Republican colleagues have been saying, raising the minimum wage is popular among American workers. That is why voters in States like California, Arkansas, Arizona, and Missouri have voted to increase their State minimum wages.

Congress has the opportunity to restore the value of work, lift families out of poverty, and ensure a fair wage for workers everywhere in America.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of workers and families by supporting the Raise the Wage Act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats' assault on rural America continues.



The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if this minimum wage law were enacted, up to 3.7 million jobs in America would vanish. And what areas would lose the most? Obviously, the areas with the most minimum wage jobs, rural areas.

You see, these areas have a much lower cost of living. You can rent an apartment for \$500 per month, instead of \$3,000 per month in San Francisco, where NANCY PELOSI is from. Food costs are lower, taxes are lower, utilities are lower, and an American family can have a comfortable living on half what it takes in San Francisco, Seattle, or New York.

One size does not fit all. A \$15 minimum wage would cost these poor rural counties thousands of jobs. Even blue State Oregon recognized this fact when it adopted a tiered minimum wage with one rate for urban areas, another for suburban, and another for rural.

I represent three poor South Carolina counties, Marion, Dillon, and Marlboro. These are majority African American and suffered stagnation over a lost decade following the financial crisis and the stifling government overreach of the Obama administration.

After tax reform and regulatory reform, these poor counties are finally recovering. Two years ago, when Donald Trump took office, the unemployment rate in Marion County was 9.6 percent. Today it is 4.6 percent. What a turnaround.

And yet, even in the face of this, Democrats haven't learned their lesson and want to return to the days of big government, big regulation overreach that will hurt these poor rural counties the worst.

Everyone is concerned about income inequality. Here is a suggestion, to stop complaining and actually do something about it. Let's work together to fix our broken immigration system.

Hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens cross our southern border every year. This limitless supply of cheap labor steals from our children and holds down wages for the hardworking, law-abiding Americans. The most affected are the most vulnerable at the bottom of the income ladder, and particularly those in rural areas.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I yield the gentleman from South Carolina an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Harvard professor George Borjas estimates that competition from low-skilled immigrants has reduced the American lower middle-class wages by \$800 to \$1,500 yearly.

Stop the endless flow of illegal labor and watch wages rise. For once, let's put the American worker first. For once, let's put America first.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 41 percent of the workers in his district

in South Carolina a raise of about \$3,800 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON), the chair of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pension Subcommittee.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 582, THE RAISE  
THE WAGE ACT OF 2019

My name is Margot Dorfman and I am the CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce. I represent women business owners across America, who support raising the minimum wage.

#### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce was founded to support the continued economic advancement of women in America. The Women's Chamber has more than 500,000 members—most of them small business owners. We have members in every state.

The business owners with whom I talk every day believe that, far from hurting their businesses, raising the minimum wage in fact helps small businesses, women workers and the broader economy. Raising the minimum wage reinforces their business strategies, while an inadequate minimum wage undermines them.

It is vitally important to understand that the number one problem I hear from my members is that consumer demand is still weak. Raising the minimum wage helps directly with that by putting more money in the pockets of customers who will spend it at our local businesses.

The migration of women from the workforce into business ownership has been one of the great economic achievements of the American dream. As women moved from employees to business owners, we have brought a new perspective to America's business leadership. Women now own about 40 percent of all privately held firms in the United States and are exercising the decision-making authority that comes with that role to effect positive changes in the workplace.

My member business owners realize that most of the people working for low pay across the country—the waitresses, the health aides and the cashiers—are women. Many of my members were once employees themselves. They know that raising the minimum wage helps working women and families in their struggle to make ends meet. Our members know that a minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is much too low.

As a matter of fact, large national chains that pay low wages may actually be competing unfairly with women-owned small businesses that work hard to assure that their employees receive fair pay. In short, keeping the minimum wage low keeps women and families down.

For these reasons and more, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce supports raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024 and then indexing it to median hourly wages so that it doesn't erode again. And we also support gradually raising the minimum wage for tipped workers until it equals the regular minimum wage as called for in the Raise the Wage Act.

SMALL BUSINESSES SHOW THAT PAYING HIGHER  
WAGES IS ECONOMICALLY REALISTIC

There are two roads to profitability: the high road and the low road. Businesses can

invest in their workforces with decent wages and benefits, and enjoy the benefits of a dedicated workforce with lower turnover, higher productivity and better customer service. Or businesses can pay poverty wages and churn through employees. These businesses may save on immediate payroll, but they experience the significant expense of higher turnover, constant recruitment and training, higher absenteeism, and a less experienced, less productive workforce.

Only one road to profitability delivers us a strong floor under our economy, a growing middle class, upward mobility and the promise of the American Dream. The business owners supported by the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce have chosen the high road strategy for building their businesses: they pay better wages and their businesses benefit as a result. They report to me that this approach attracts more stable, dependable, productive employees. That's not surprising since better wages enable workers to concentrate on their job without continually worrying about how they will put gas in their cars, pay for day care or keep up with their rent.

At small businesses, the owners and employees work side by side on a daily basis, working together to offer the best goods and services to their customers. My members know they cannot generally compete with the big box stores or the chain restaurants on price. Instead, their competitive advantage is higher quality service and a real connection to the community and its residents.

The reality is that my members and other Main Street businesses have a lot in common with low-wage workers: both are being squeezed by big corporations. The low wages that big retailers and restaurant chains pay are one of many factors that contributes to their price advantage over small and local businesses. Indeed, low-paying big chains count on responsible employers and taxpayers to subsidize them by providing food stamps and public health assistance to their workers who can't make ends meet on poverty wages.

Raising the minimum wage to a more realistic level helps level the playing field for businesses like my members who believe in treating their workers fairly and investing in the communities they are rooted in.

WEAK CONSUMER SPENDING IS HURTING SMALL  
BUSINESSES AND RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE  
CAN GIVE IT A BOOST

My members see the stagnant wages and economic anxiety that most American families are facing as one of the major factors weakening the economy a decade after the Great Recession. And economists recognize that until we restore real wage growth for working and middle-class Americans, consumer spending will not be where we need it to be to help businesses thrive and grow into the future.

Too many people forget that workers are also consumers. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of our economy, and we must repower broad-based consumer spending—backed by adequate wages rather than unaffordable debt—if we are going to repower our economy, create good jobs and reverse the decline in our middle class. Raising the minimum wage boosts the economy from the bottom up, which is exactly what we need.

That's why local businesses support raising the minimum wage—because that additional money in the pockets of the lowest paid workers will be spent immediately in the local economy. These workers are not taking fancy trips abroad or speculating on Wall Street. They are spending pay increases at the grocery store, the pharmacy and the auto-repair in their communities.

# RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE HELPS WORKING WOMEN

Finally, as a representative of women-owned businesses, I want to emphasize that working women represent the greatest percentage of workers to benefit from increasing the minimum wage. The typical low-wage worker is an adult woman. Think of your waitress at Applebee's, or the cashier who rings you up at the supermarket. Think of the childcare center worker who takes care of your son or daughter, or the health aide who helps your mother or grandfather.

Many of the women business owners who belong to the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce left the workforce to start their own businesses because they felt that the jobs where women worked were not being fairly paid. In building their own companies and becoming employers, they have created working environments where they try to do better by paying and playing fairly. That's why women-owned businesses tend to pay above minimum wage. Women business owners understand and value security for families.

In sum, a \$15 minimum wage by 2024 would offer all of the benefits that I have outlined: it will help small businesses like my members by putting more money in the pockets of workers, which will boost spending and job creation on Main Street; it will help level the playing field for small businesses and big businesses; and it will bring fairer pay to American women, who hold the majority of the low-wage jobs that will see a raise.

While some try to portray a minimum wage increase as a fight between business and workers, raising the minimum wage is in reality good for both.

It is for these reasons that the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce supports the Raise the Wage Act of 2019.

Thank you.

MARGOT DORFMAN,  
Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Women's  
Chamber of Commerce™.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is amoral that millions of people in this country are forced to work so hard for so little in return.

Believe me, Congress knows, because there is a serious bipartisan movement afoot to provide Members of Congress with a cost-of-living raise. Congress realizes that they do not earn enough and, hopefully, they realize that people earning \$7.50 an hour are definitely not earning enough.

So today, I call on CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, to let the American people know that we are attempting to raise the minimum wage. Herald it from the loudest bully pulpit you have. Listen to the facts given today by Chairman SCOTT and my colleagues and share them.

News outlets all over America, you have a responsibility to let the American people know that we hear them, we support them, and we understand. We are doing our very, very best to help them. We are fighting for them.

Raise the wage, colleagues. Raise the wage today.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 582, the

so-called Raise the Wage Act, which is nothing more than another baseless, irrational attack on President Trump's successful economic record.

Just this week, House Democrats voted to condemn the President, hold his advisers in contempt, and many House Democrats voted to impeach the President. Today, they are working to undo the economic gains seen under the Trump administration's leadership and undermine the best economy in my lifetime.

This legislation will arbitrarily double the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, despite plenty of evidence that employers are fairly compensating employees. This bill will hurt the very low-income people House Democrats claim they want to help by reducing employment opportunity and hours.

In fact, the CBO estimated that this legislation will cost the American economy up to 3.7 million jobs and reduce real wages by \$9.5 billion.

I offered a bipartisan amendment to prevent this bill from taking effect unless the GAO could show this legislation would eliminate fewer than 200,000 jobs in rural America, where I live, but House Democrats wouldn't even allow a debate.

Just in Tennessee, this bill is predicted to eliminate more than 66,000 jobs, roughly the size of my hometown, which is the largest city in my district.

In 2016, Seattle's minimum wage increased to \$13 an hour, \$2 shy of what the House Democrats are proposing today, and it has already reduced hours for low-income jobs. If legislation like this is hurting large areas like Seattle, it will have even a worse impact on rural America.

I think my colleague across the aisle said the States had raised this. I think that is a perfect thing, the States ought to. They know their local economies better than we do here in Washington.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans to implement policies to give every American the tools to seek higher-paying jobs and, once again, encourage my colleagues to vote against H.R. 582.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 41 percent of the workers in his district in Tennessee an average raise of about \$3,700 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

I have been fighting for working families for 3 decades now, from the State House in North Carolina, to here in the U.S. House. I led the successful effort in my State to raise the State's minimum wage in 2006 from \$5.15 to \$6.15 an hour. Then, in 2009, the Federal Government raised the wage to \$7.25. That

was 12 years ago, and the minimum wage hasn't increased since. Only the cost of living has increased.

Folks working full-time earning the minimum wage aren't making enough to feed their families, and that is not acceptable. No one working full-time should live in poverty. Working hard is not enough if you don't make enough.

That is why I am a proud supporter of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. The Raise the Wage Act would increase wages for over 150,000 people in my district in North Carolina. It is not just good for workers; it is good for the economy.

Unlike the GOP tax cut, which benefited corporations and the wealthy, this bill will put money in the pockets of hardworking Americans, who will spend it in the local economy.

My friends on the other side of the aisle will use outdated, misleading data to say that it will kill jobs. But the most comprehensive and recent research shows no job loss in cities that have already raised the wage to \$15.

The American people are with us on this. A vast majority support raising the minimum wage.

You already know folks can't survive on \$7.25. We don't have to do that in Congress. My folks on the other side of the aisle, you are making six figures. Can you survive on \$7.25?

I urge my colleagues, do what is right because it is right. America needs a raise. Join me in voting for this bill. Give the American people a long overdue raise.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from 100 economists in support of the \$15 minimum wage.

[From the Economic Policy Institute, Feb. 6, 2019]

Today, workers who earn the federal minimum wage make \$7.25 an hour—about 29 percent less per hour than their counterparts made 50 years ago (after adjusting for inflation). We can afford to pay the lowest-paid workers in America substantially more than what their counterparts were paid a half century ago. Workers produce more today from each hour of work with productivity nearly doubling since the late 1960s.

We, the undersigned, support gradually increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024, and then indexing it to median wages to protect against future erosion. We also support gradually phasing out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at \$2.13 since 1991.

This policy would directly lift the wages of 28.1 million workers by 2024. Another 11.6 million workers whose wages are just above the new minimum would likely see a wage increase through "spillover" effects, as employers adjust their internal wage scales. The vast majority of employees who would benefit are adults—disproportionately women—in working families, who work at least 20 hours a week and depend on their earnings to make ends meet.

A \$15 minimum wage by 2024 would result in \$121 billion in higher wages for 39.7 million low-wage workers, which would also benefit their families and their communities. Since lower-paid workers spend a large share of their additional earnings, this injection of wages would modestly stimulate consumer



demand, business activity, and job growth. Further, modest and infrequent minimum wage increases are directly responsible for growing inequality between the bottom and the middle class; this minimum wage increase would provide a significant and much needed boost to the earnings of low-wage workers. And, because it would be indexed to growth in median wages, it would ensure that the wage floor keeps up with growth of middle-wage workers going forward.

The last decade has seen a wealth of rigorous academic research on the effect of minimum wage increases on employment, with the weight of evidence showing that previous modest increases in the minimum wage had little or no negative effects on the employment of low-wage workers. It is time to support a bolder increase to address the fact that wages for workers at the low end of the labor market have continued to stagnate. Even if the growth of aggregate work hours for low-wage workers were to slow somewhat, workers who work less could still break even, or come out ahead, in terms of annual earnings. Since as many as 10 percent of the lowest-wage workers leave or start jobs every month, any decrease in the number of full-time equivalent jobs will mean that some workers will take more time finding a new job, or will work fewer hours. But many of these workers may still see their annual earnings rise because of their wage increase.

The benefits of gradually phasing in a \$15 minimum wage by 2024 would be far-reaching, lifting pay for tens of millions of workers and helping reverse decades of growing pay inequality. The benefits of a \$15 minimum wage in 2024 for workers, their families, and their communities far outweigh the potential costs. Of course, the minimum wage is just one of many policies designed to help low-wage workers. We believe that an increase in the minimum wage should be accompanied by complementary policies such as an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), enhanced safety net, increased job training, and policies to generate full employment.

Sincerely,

Daron Acemoglu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; Jacqueline Agesa, Marshall University, Ph.D.; Alan Aja, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Ph.D.; Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston, Ph.D.; Sylvia A. Allegretto, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Bernard E. Anderson, University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D.; Robert M. Anderson, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Eileen Appelbaum, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Ph.D.; Michael Ash, University of Massachusetts Amherst Ph.D.; Algernon Austin, Demos, Ph.D.

Kate Bahn, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Ph.D.; Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Ph.D.; Erdogan Bakir, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Stephen Baldwin, Retired, Ph.D.; Nina Banks, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; James Baron, Yale School of Management, Ph.D.; Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University, Ph.D.; Jared Bernstein, Ph.D.; Josh Bivens, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Sandra Black, University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D.

Gail Blattenberger, University of Utah, Ph.D.; Robert Blecker, American University, Ph.D.; Barry Bluestone, Northeastern University, Ph.D.; Barry Bosworth, Brookings Institution, Ph.D.; Heather Boushey, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Ph.D.; Clair Brown, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D. Lawrence Chimarine, Radnor Consulting, Ph.D.; Robert Coen, Northwestern University, Ph.D.; Jennifer Cohen, Miami University, Ph.D.; David Cutler Harvard University, Ph.D.

Sheldon Danziger, University of Michigan, Ph.D.; Angus Deaton, Princeton University, Ph.D.; Gregory DeFreitas, Hofstra University, Ph.D.; James Devine, Loyola Marymount University, Ph.D.; Geert Dhoondt, John Jay College, CUNY Ph.D.; Peter Diamond, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; Adrienne Eaton, Rutgers University Ph.D.; Peter Eaton, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Ph.D.; John Edgren, Eastern Michigan University, Ph.D.; Gerald Epstein, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ph.D.

Allan Freyer, NC Justice Center, Ph.D.; Teresa Ghilarducci The New School, Ph.D.; Jeeten Gin, Union College, Ph.D.; Martin Hart-Landsberg, Lewis and Clark College Ph.D.; Jeff Hayes, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Ph.D.; Adam Hersh Former Chief Economist of the Joint Economic Committee, Ph.D.; Stephen Herzenberg, Keystone Research Center, Ph.D.; Emily Hoffman, Western Michigan University, Ph.D.; David Howell, The New School, Ph.D.

Candace Howes, Connecticut College, Ph.D.; Jennifer Hunt, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; Jeffrey Keefe, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; Mary C. King Portland State University, Ph.D.; Janet Knodler, Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Ebru Kongar, Dickinson College, Ph.D.; Brent Kramer, City University of New York, Ph.D.; Haydar Kurban, Howard University, Ph.D.; Paul Leigh, University of California, Davis, Ph.D.; Henry Levin, Columbia University, Ph.D.

Oren Levin-Waldman, Metropolitan College of New York, Ph.D.; Mark Levinson, SEIU, Ph.D.; Frank Levy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; David B. Lipsky, Cornell University, Ph.D.; Pamela Loprest, Urban Institute, Ph.D.; Stephanie Luce, School of Labor and Urban Studies/CUNY, Ph.D.; Lisa Lynch, Brandeis University Ph.D.; Stanley Malinowitz, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Ph.D.; Julianne Malveaux, Economic Education, Ph.D.; Patrick Mason, Florida State University, Ph.D.

Jordan Matsudaira, Columbia University, Ph.D.; Peter Matthews, Middlebury College, Ph.D.; Anne Mayhew, University of Tennessee, Ph.D.; Elaine McCrate, University of Vermont, Ph.D.; John Miller Wheaton College, Ph.D.; Lawrence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Monique Morrissey, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Philip Moss, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Ph.D.; Eshragh Motahar Union College, Ph.D.; Tracy Mott, University of Denver, Ph.D.

Richard Murnane, Harvard University, Ph.D.; Robert Murphy, Boston College, Ph.D.; Paulette Olson, Wright State University, Ph.D.; Rudolph Oswald, Retired, Ph.D.; Spencer Pack, Connecticut College, Ph.D.; Prasannan Parthasarathi, Boston College, Ph.D.; Manuel Pastor University of Southern California, Ph.D.; Mark Paul, New College of Florida, Ph.D.; Eva Paus, Mount Holyoke College Ph.D.; Kenneth Peres, Retired Communications Workers of America, Ph.D.

Joseph Persky, University of Illinois at Chicago Ph.D.; Michael Piore, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D.; Robert Pollen, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Ph.D.; Mark Price, Keystone Research Center, Ph.D.; Michael Reich, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Rene Rosenbaum, Michigan State University, Ph.D.; Jesse Rothstein, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Daniel Rubinfeld University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Emmanuel Saez, University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Isabel Sawhill, Brookings Institution, Ph.D.

Peter Schaeffer, West Virginia University, Ph.D.; William Schaniel, University of West Georgia, Ph.D.; Stephen J. Schmidt, Union College, Ph.D.; John Schmitt, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Geoffrey Schneider,

Bucknell University, Ph.D.; Juliet Schor, Boston College, Ph.D.; Robert E Scott Economic Policy Institute Ph.D.; Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Rachel Silbermann, Connecticut Voices for Children, Ph.D.; Andna Smythe, Howard University, Ph.D.

Younghwan Song, Union College Ph.D.; Sarah Spell, Ph.D.; Case Sprenkle, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ph.D.; William E. Spriggs, Howard University and AFL-CIO, Ph.D.; Marshall Steinbaum, Roosevelt Institute, Ph.D.; James Stewart, The Pennsylvania State University, Ph.D.; Frank Stricker, CSU Dominguez Hills, Ph.D.; Kenneth P. Thomas, University of Missouri-St Louis, Ph.D.; Chris Tilly, University of California Los Angeles, Ph.D.

Laura Tyson, University of California Berkeley, Ph.D.; Johan Uribe, Denison University, Ph.D.; Paula Voos, Rutgers University, Ph.D.; Richard Walker University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D.; Robert Wassmer, California State University, Sacramento, Ph.D.; David Weil, Brandeis University, Ph.D.; Joann Weiner, The George Washington University Ph.D.; Jeannette Wicks-Lim, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Ph.D.; Charles Wilber, University of Notre Dame, Ph.D.; Sarah Wilhelm, Ph.D.; Robert B. Williams, Guilford College, Ph.D.; Valerie Wilson, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.; Yavuz Yasar, University of Denver, Ph.D.; Alexandria Zhang, Ph.D.; Ben Zipperer, Economic Policy Institute, Ph.D.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do agree with one thing one of our colleagues across the aisle said a few minutes ago. We do need to let the American people know what this House is about to do; kill millions of jobs.

The CBO's estimate was that 1.3 million jobs would be lost, minimum. Of those jobs lost, 60 percent would be female workers, 46 percent would be young workers, and 38 percent would have less than a high school diploma. These are the people that our colleagues claim they care about.

However, what they want to do here today is harm those very people. So I think it is important that we let the American people understand what this legislation does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 582, better known as the Raising Unemployment for American Workers Act.

The bill's desired outcome may be well-intentioned, and you will hear hypothetical numbers from my good friend and chairman of the committee, assuming jobs are kept, which they won't be.

□ 0945

In reality, it causes harm to the very people it is supposed to help. Just ask the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

According to a CBO analysis of this legislation, it could eliminate up to 3.7 million jobs with a minimum wage increase, but the loss of 3.7 million jobs, and reduce family income by \$9 billion.

Low-income workers without a high school degree would be hit the hardest.

We have seen the real-world consequences of a \$15 minimum wage in cities like Seattle. It resulted in small businesses cutting jobs and workers receiving fewer hours and overall take-home pay.

Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, there is a better way to boost income for hardworking families. Let's focus on policies that keep our economy thriving and create more opportunities for all Americans to find good-paying, living-wage jobs that allow advancements as well, not just minimum wage.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 32 percent of the workers in his district in Michigan an average raise of about \$2,300 a year. And in the CBO report that he cited, three of the most recent studies cited in that report show an actual increase in jobs, not a decrease.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, a gentlewoman who can talk specifically about Seattle.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, this is a big day. Today we pass the first minimum wage increase for workers in decades.

And, yes, I am proud to represent Seattle, a leader in the Fight for \$15, where I served on the committee that actually drafted the legislation that passed, ultimately.

It has been 4 years since Seattle raised the wage, and I want to tell my colleagues across the aisle what the effect of that increase has been.

Seattle is flourishing. Today we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, and jobs are growing steadily.

Last year, Forbes ranked Seattle the number one best place for business and careers in 2018, and despite the doom and gloom predictions from the National Restaurant Association when we passed the bill, what we have seen is what The Seattle Times called "a crazy restaurant boom"—that is a quote—with new jobs created every year.

The most recent and credible research shows that wages for Seattle's low-wage workers went up without any negative impact on employment, and local food prices remained constant so that families could better afford to buy healthy food.

When we increased the minimum wage in Seattle, Mr. Speaker, we got strong businesses, healthy families, and flourishing communities. All American workers deserve the same thing. Let's raise the wage today.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a second letter from the National Employment Law Project in support of this legislation.

JULY 16, 2019.

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Patty Murray (WA), Representatives Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), Mark Paeen (WI) and Stephanie Murphy (FL).

If enacted, this legislation would:

Gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2025;

After 2025, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages;

Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991; and,

Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.

Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 will begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long-overdue raises to more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 35, nearly half have some years of college education. In fact, those who work year-round would see a raise in the order of \$3,000 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fast-food worker who today struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year.

28 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 58 percent of the workers who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 38 percent of African American workers and 33 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run—yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Sincerely,

Jackson State University; Jewish Women International; Jobs with Justice; Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger; Justice and Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh Conference of Churches; Justice for Migrant Women; Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes; Kansas Association of Community Action Programs; Kentucky Equal Justice Center; Kentucky State AFL-CIO; Keystone Progress; Keystone Research Center; Kings Local Food Pantry; Korean Resource Center; KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change.

La Frontera Ministries; La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition; Labor Education Program, School of Labor and Employment Relations, University of Illinois; Lamolille Family Center; Law Foundation of Silicon Valley; Law Students in Court; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentations; Legal Aid at Work; Legal Aid Service of Broward County; Legal Momentum; The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund; Legal Voice; Let Justice Roll: Living Wage Campaign.

Lincoln Hills Development Corporation; LiveWell Colorado; Long Beach Gray Panthers; Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy; Louisiana Budget Project; Louisiana

Progress Action; Main Street Alliance; Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; Maine Women's Lobby; Mainers for Accountable Leadership; Make the Road PA; Maryland Center on Economic Policy; Maryland Hunger Solutions; Maryland National Organization for Women; Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

Maternal and Child Health Access; MCCC/MTA; Men of All Colors Together (MACT)/Phila.; Mercyhaven Inc.; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Metro-Detroit Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D.C.; Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association; Michigan League for Public Policy; Michigan's Children; Middlesex Coalition for Children; Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Organization; Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless; Mississippi Families for Kids; Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative.

Missouri CLUW Chapter; MomsRising; Mountain State Justice; MWC, AFL-CIO; NAACP;

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina; Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF); National Association of Social Workers; National Association of Social Workers—NJ Chapter; National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter; National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter; National Association of the Deaf; National Black Justice Coalition.

National Black Sisters' Conference; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence; National Coalition for the Homeless; National Consumers League; National Council of Churches; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Jewish Women—PA; National Council of Jewish Women—Texas; National Council of Jewish Women—Florida; National Disability Rights Network; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Education Association; National Employment Law Project.

National Employment Lawyers Association; National Employment Lawyers Association—Eastern Pennsylvania National Employment Lawyers Association—Georgia Affiliate National Employment Lawyers Association—New York; National Equality Action Team (NEAT); National Health Care for the Homeless Council; National Human Services Assembly; National Immigration Law Center; National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC); National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Partnership for Women & Families; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; National Rural Social Work Caucus; National Urban League.

National Women's Law Center; National Working Positive Coalition; National Workrights Institute; NC Justice Center; NC State AFL-CIO; Nebraska Appleseed; Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Neighbors Helping Neighbors Teton County MT; NELA Hawaii Chapter; NELA—Kansas City Affiliate; NELA—Saint Louis; NELA—Alabama; Nenana Tortella Council on Aging, INC; Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.

New Jersey Policy Perspective; New Jersey State Coalition of Labor Union Women; New Jersey Tenants Organization; New Mexico Association of Community Partners (NMACP); New Mexico Black Caucus; New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty; New Orleans Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed

Sacramento; New Voices for Reproductive Justice; New York Paid Leave Coalition; North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE); North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans; North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence; North Carolina Council of Churches; North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance.

Northwest Indiana Community Action; Northwest Pilot Project; Oakland Park Democratic Club; Oakland Symphony; Oasis Legal Services; Ohaha Family Foundation; Ohio Coalition of Labor Union Women; Ohio Domestic Violence Network; Oklahoma Policy Institute; Oklahoma Women's Coalition; One Pennsylvania; One Stop Career Center of PR Inc; Orange County Poverty Alleviation Coalition; Organize Florida; OURNOVA.

Oxfam America; Pathways PA; Patriotic Millionaires; Pax Christi Florida; Pax Christi Illinois; Pax Christi USA; Peace, Justice, Sustainability Florida; Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Pennsylvania Together; People Demanding Action; People's Institute for Housing Justice; Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women; Philly Neighborhood Networks; Piedmont Housing Alliance.

Planet Earth; Policy Matters Ohio; Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign; Positive Women's Network-USA; PowHer New York; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Pride at Work; Princeton Community Housing; Professional Child Care Provider Network of Prince George's Co., Inc; Project Bread-The Walk for Hunger; Promise The Children; Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians); Public Advocacy for Kids; Public Citizen; Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY); Public Justice Center.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues have noted, States and localities may enact higher minimum wages than the Federal minimum wage, and there are examples of that. But let's leave freedom in the hands of the people, in the hands of the States. That is what this country is all about.

In socialist regimes, all decisions are made by a small group of people at a central government. That is not the American way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think dates matter and I think votes matter, and I think that sometimes because of where we are, this is kind of this Potomac amnesia.

We say we want to raise people's wages, we want to create jobs, we want to be able to do things that lift every single boat because that is what a rising tide does. It is not a Democrat tide; it is not a Republican tide; it is a rising tide for the American people.

I would just want to remind my colleagues, in December of 2017, not one of you was on board with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. You could not vote for it in the House; you could not vote for it in the Senate.

And we come here today and we talk about minimum wage and raising minimum wages, and I would just suggest

to you that America is not about minimalism. Nobody comes to America because I may get a minimum wage increase. They come to America because of maximum opportunity.

Why would we dwell on a minimum wage when you had the chance in December of 2017 to lift all boats?

Why would we turn our back on an opportunity to completely change the economy of the United States?

Why would we turn our back on workers who had not been employed for many years, and we sit today with millions of open jobs and we don't have enough workers to fill them?

And what are we talking about today? We are trying to right a wrong. We are trying to fix, somehow, a wrongheaded decision to vote against the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

And a lot of it had to do with not because we were Republicans, but because we have somebody in the White House that we just don't like; and, my God, if we do something that lifts the hopes of all Americans and the wishes of all Americans and Donald Trump gets credit for it, that just won't work in 2020.

I would ask my friends on the other side, if you really want to see America soar, stop putting roadblocks in the way. Stop standing in the way of hard-working American taxpayers who couldn't care less what your political affiliation is but watch the legislation that you pass and, more importantly, the legislation that you passed on.

I would just remind you—and I know you are going to tell me the average wages in Pennsylvania—those wages are only available if you get hired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman has suggested, his vote against the bill is a vote to deny about 43 percent of the workers in his district in Pennsylvania an average raise of \$3,900 a year, while the tax bill that he supported, 80 percent of the benefits of that bill went to the top 1 percent and corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the House majority leader.

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

I like the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He and I are friends. We disagree.

I proudly voted against the tax bill which, I think, spiked the deficit, and we had a continuation of the extraordinary growth of jobs and the economy under the Obama administration, and that has continued in a straight line. It didn't spike up—straight line.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Raise the Wage Act. This is direct—not indirect, not trickle down, direct—saying to some of the people who worked hardest and make the least: We are going to help. We think what you do is valuable to our community and to our society.

We need to make certain that wages keep pace with the cost of living. We haven't done that. For 10 years, we haven't given a raise.

We need to value the labor that our people contribute into the economy. That is why we have a Federal minimum wage, to ensure that everyone who works hard, full time, ought to be able to afford, not simply to get by, but to try to get ahead.

I have heard from many in my district who have told me that increasing the minimum wage will have a major impact on their incomes and their lives.

Dana Hudson from Owings in Calvert County, Maryland, makes the minimum wage of \$10.10 an hour and supplements his income with farming on his land. He is 60 years old and looking ahead to retirement, knowing that a higher minimum wage in his final years of working will go a long way towards giving him and his wife retirement security.

Delano Alexander of Clinton, Maryland, is an environmental services aide at Prince George's Hospital Center. He earns \$12.85 an hour, presently, and if we pass this bill, he will get an income boost through the years to help him and his family get ahead.

Victor Reyes of Berwyn Heights, Maryland, started his career as a non-union day laborer barely making a living. Now he has a union construction job, and he is earning better pay. He wrote to ask me to support a higher minimum wage so that others who are working with him and haven't found better jobs can get the same economic security he now has.

We referred to 27 million, 33 million—whatever that number is between 27 and 33—are going to get a raise by this bill. That didn't happen in the tax bill. Some of the richest people in America got a huge increase, but not the average working guy and gal.

In June, we marked 10 years since the last minimum wage increase went into effect, the longest period without an increase since the minimum wage was first introduced under Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

I was proud to bring legislation to the floor in 2007 to raise the minimum wage the last time Congress did so, and I am proud to do it again today. This is long overdue, something the previous Republican majority should have made a priority but failed to accomplish.

Today, low-income workers in our economy are getting a bad deal with a minimum wage that doesn't even allow many workers to get by, let alone get ahead working 40 hours a week and living in poverty. That is not a successful American economy, because 10 years have passed without an increase.

Workers stuck earning the current minimum wage of just \$7.25 an hour have effectively received a 17 percent pay cut over the last 10 years. That is why the House will vote today on the Raise the Wage Act, which will gradually raise the Federal minimum wage

to \$15 an hour by 2025, 6 years from now.

This bill also eliminates the subminimum wage for those with disabilities, which will ensure their equal pay and the ability to live with independence.

Many States and municipalities have already raised their minimum wages to this level, and it has not caused the dire consequences that some on the other side of the aisle have predicted. My home State of Maryland took action earlier this year to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I am proud of that fact.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would lift 1.3 million Americans directly out of poverty.

Isn't that a good thing to do? Doesn't that make you feel better that we are helping to lift people out of poverty?

And the Economic Policy Institute says that doing so would cause wages to go up for 33 million Americans. That is good for them.

What I suggest is, well, it is good for our economy and it is good for all of us, because it will help grow the economy, make folks more independent, and make them feel better about themselves and about what they are doing.

We campaigned on a promise to raise wages and make sure that American workers can access all the opportunities that make the American Dream possible. That is what we are doing today.

I thank Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and Democrats on the Committee on Education and Labor for their hard work on this legislation.

We said we were going to raise the wage. Today we are going to raise the wage. It is the right thing to do. I urge every Member to support it.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI promised that a \$15 minimum wage hike would be passed by the House in the first 100 hours of this Congress, so it is not surprising that 7 months later the Rules Committee accepted a manager's amendment to add a modest amount of extra time for small businesses to feel the full effect of this bill.

Also, our colleague has said that this will lift 1.3 million people out of poverty, but it is also going to knock 3.7 million people out of jobs. So, let's keep it all in perspective.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is laughable for anybody in this House to say that the government is going to raise your wages. The government doesn't raise wages. What the government does is provide an environment for businesses to raise wages, and that is where the decision should be.

And it is laughable to me that Members of Congress actually believe that they are going to raise the wages of people in this country by this legislation. The Congressional Budget Office recently released a report saying that

almost 4 million jobs could be lost if this legislation were implemented.

I remind my colleagues that we had an 8-year war on business, and, guess what. In 2016, we said that war is over. America is open for business.

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With Georgia being the number one State to do business in for the past 6 years, this damaging Federal mandate would reverse all of the great work our State has done to grow jobs and the economy.

And I am telling you, we are getting it done in Georgia, but I don't want Maryland to determine what Georgia is going to do and I don't want Seattle to determine what Georgia is going to do.

As a businessman, I know that our economy is all about supply and demand, and with more job openings, then job seekers' wages are going to go up. You have to pay more to keep talent. It is supply and demand, folks.

In fact, in 2018, wages and salaries saw the largest increase in more than a decade, thanks to the economic environment led by a Republican-led Congress and President Trump that has spurred economic growth and prosperity.

The last thing we need are more one-size-fits-all Washington mandates that lead to job cuts, cut workers' hours for automation, and ultimately shut the doors of our Nation's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny 41 percent of the workers in his district in Georgia an average raise of about \$3,800 a year, and I don't think they are laughing about that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCOTT for yielding.

I do find it interesting to sit and listen to a debate today where people who make \$174,000 a year and half of which are millionaires are telling people they should be satisfied trying to exist on \$15,000 a year, which is the very reason we are here today: to try to raise the wage for 33 million people, a quarter of the workforce in this country.

No family in the United States can live on \$7.25 an hour and make ends meet.

In my home State of Wisconsin, you would have to work 93 hours a week at minimum wage in order to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment, and there is not a single county in the country where a worker earning the minimum wage for 40 hours a week can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

I come to Congress with 3 decades as a small businessowner. Small business owners know our workers are our customers, our neighbors, and our community members.

When workers have more money in their pockets, they have more money

to spend to care for their families and stimulate our economy.

This is especially true in rural areas, where workers have only a handful of employment options. If the primary employer in a rural town is a multibillion-dollar corporation like Walmart, they can afford to pay their workers \$15 an hour instead of holding down wages for the entire community.

Congress recently set a new record for the longest stretch in U.S. history without a hike in the minimum wage: 10 years. It is long past due that we show workers respect by putting more money in their pockets and support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the United Food and Commercial Workers.

UFCW,

Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

To All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) which represents more than 1.3 million hard-working Americans in food and non-food retail, pharmacy, food processing, and manufacturing, I urge you to vote for the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582) and vote against any amendments that would weaken the bill. UFCW will be scoring this vote.

The Raise the Wage Act will raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.55 this year and gradually increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. After 2024, the minimum wage will be indexed so that it continues to rise along with a typical workers wage. The Raise the Wage Act will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage.

Raising the minimum wage will be good for the economy and stimulate consumer spending. Today's low-wage workers earn less per hour than their counterparts did 50 years ago but productivity has nearly doubled in that time. If the minimum wage had been raised at the same pace as productivity growth, it would be over \$20 an hour today. Increasing the minimum wage would generate \$144 billion in additional wages and most of those extra earnings would be spent in grocery stores and other main street businesses because lower-paid workers spend a greater proportion of their earnings.

The Raise the Wage Act would deliver long-overdue raises to a large segment of the workforce. Gradually raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would lift pay for nearly 40 million workers—26.6 percent of the U.S. workforce. A \$15 minimum wage would begin to reverse decades of pay inequality between the lowest-paid workers and the middle class.

Raising the minimum wage would significantly benefit workers of color and women. Nearly two-fifths (38 percent) of African Americans and one-third (33 percent) of Latinos would get a raise and 56 percent of women workers would benefit.

Across the country, there is overwhelming momentum in favor of raising wages for our nation's lowest-wage workers. Since 2014, twenty-one states, plus D.C., have approved minimum wage increases. California, Massachusetts, New York, and the District of Columbia have approved raising their minimum wages to \$15 an hour and Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, Michigan, and Maine have approved minimum wages ranging from \$12 to \$14.75 an hour.

UFCW opposes a regional minimum wage. Regional minimum wages bake-in low wages to already low-wage places. Rural counties and Southern cities where wages have been depressed for a variety of social, political, and economic reasons would effectively have their low-wage status locked in. The power of the minimum wage to boost worker incomes, and thus consumer buying power, would be legislatively kneecapped for the areas that could most use a boost in local consumer demand.

Raising the minimum wage is long overdue. I call on every member of Congress to vote for the Raise the Wage Act and enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

ADEMOLA OYEFESO,  
*International Vice President, Director,  
Legislative and Political Action Department.*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 582.

This bill would cause disruptive job losses and harm entry-level workers in many regions around the country, effectively knocking the bottom rung off the career ladder and especially hurting young workers.

Last Monday, CBO issued a long-awaited study, which estimates that up to 3.7 million jobs would be lost from a \$15 minimum wage, with a median estimate of 1.3 million jobs lost. That includes 44,000 jobs that would be lost in my home State of Alabama, and those under 21 will suffer half those job losses.

When comparing those numbers with the report's estimate that only 1.3 million individuals would be lifted out of poverty, H.R. 582 would cost at least one job to be lost for every person who moved out of poverty. In the CBO's high-impact scenario, as many as three jobs would be lost for every individual moving out of poverty.

This is not a tradeoff that Congress should ask America's workers and small businesses to make, and I especially don't think we should ask our young workers to make it.

Significantly, CBO has also found there would be a reduction in real family income by 2025 of \$9 billion, effectively reducing pay for many American families.

Remember, wages are currently on the rise thanks to a booming economy, the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and President Trump's focus on eliminating wasteful regulations.

With 7.3 million unfilled jobs nationwide, job creators know they must offer competitive wages and benefits to attract and retain workers, and 29 States already have a minimum wage higher than the Federal floor.

Instead of providing tangible benefits to working class Americans, H.R. 582 would cause the most harm to the very people its supporters claim to help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about

37 percent of the workers in his district in Alabama an average wage of about \$3,700 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCOTT for making sure that we finally, after 11 years, will have a vote to raise the minimum wage.

This is America. You play by the rules, you work hard, you are supposed to be able to make it, but that is not the way it is.

Less than 2 years ago, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle made sure that the top 1 percent got their raise, as they are stepping on the American worker.

Today is the day that we set the record straight and give opportunities to those who need it the most.

Henry Ford said it: Make sure you pay your employees enough money so they can buy your product and services.

That is the true case of what is going on here today. You give a raise to the people who need it the most to survive, not to invest overseas or in a shore home. They will spend it right in their neighborhood going to the supermarket and drugstore.

They shouldn't have to make the decision whether or not to put clothes on their kids' backs or to feed them, but that is what is going on today.

Those in the top 1 percent got their raise. It is time that those who work hard and have the dignity of a job get their raise.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the United Steel Workers.

UNITED STEELWORKERS,  
Pittsburgh, PA, July 15, 2019.

Re United Steelworkers support H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW), I urge you to stand with workers and support the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582).

In the 10 years since Congress last took action, the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant, eroding the earnings and purchasing power for millions of American wage workers and their families. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the current federal minimum wage is worth 17 percent less than it was 10 years ago, down a staggering 31 percent from its peak value in 1968. It is clear that this stagnation has resulted in a cut in real wages for those workers who can least afford it.

While 29 states and the District of Columbia have taken action to raise their wage floors, the failure of federal action on the minimum wage means roughly 40 percent of Americans and their communities have seen continued wage stagnation.

It is past time for America to address the growing needs of low-wage workers and low-income families and raise the federal minimum wage. Under the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582), the value of the federal minimum wage would be restored by incrementally raising the nation's wage floor to \$15.00 an hour by 2024 and indexing it to inflation. The legislation would also eliminate the subminimum wages currently in effect for tipped

workers and workers with disabilities, ensuring that all groups have access to consistent wages.

Everyone benefits when the floor is raised. According to the Congressional Budget Office, raising the wage to \$15.00 an hour would boost the earnings of 27 million workers and their families, lifting some of America's neediest families out of poverty. Through this wage increase, the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582) will not only help low-wage workers to meet their basic needs, but it will increase workers' purchasing power, helping to stimulate and grow America's economy.

All workers deserve to make a livable wage. Combined with critically needed labor law reforms, this legislation will serve as an important step to empowering workers. USW urges you to give America's lowest paid workers a raise and enact the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582).

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. CONWAY,  
*International President.*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues say all the time that we need to help the people at the bottom of the ladder.

Those are exactly the people who are being helped by the Republican policies that were enacted in the first 2 years of this administration. We are seeing people at the bottom get the highest percentage increase. So that is already being done, and it is because of regulations being reduced and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

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

When I was a teenager, at 14 years old, one of my first jobs was serving as a dishwasher at Smoketown family restaurant. I had no previous work experience, but the owner took a chance on me. I certainly didn't receive a great wage, but it was a starting point, and the lessons that I learned in that job were lessons that I used during my entire career.

I went on after high school to buy a small construction company, operated it for 25 years, creating family-sustaining jobs for hundreds of individuals.

Today, my 16-year-old son serves food in a skilled nursing center after school at a wage of \$9 an hour. He is very thrilled with that; again, learning the skills, the people skills, needed, learning to show up for work on time, learning to work hard.

In fact, one of the best indicators of success in a career is whether or not you had a job during high school.

This bill, unfortunately, would rob many of the opportunity to hold that first job. CBO specifically said 3.7 million jobs will be lost as a result of this bill.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle are not talking about that aspect of the bill.

There is no question here about the desire to see every individual that we represent have the opportunity to live the American Dream: the idea the previous speaker just said, the idea that

you can work hard, play by the rules, and you can live your dream.

The question is the prescription, and it is a fundamental choice. It is a choice of believing in our free enterprise system, believing in our economic system that has created more opportunity than ever before in the history of the world, or believing in more government control.

Today, someone can apply at the construction company that I operated for many years—

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. SMUCKER. Today, someone can apply at that company and have no experience and start at \$16 an hour. That wasn't a government prescription. That is the free enterprise system at work.

I am very, very proud, as the result of the work that we have done over the last 2 years, the tax reform act, for the first time, we are seeing wages rise.

Again, it is not as a result of a bill like this, which would have exactly the opposite effect on that ability to achieve upward mobility.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against the bill is a vote to deny about 34 percent of the workers in his district in Pennsylvania an average raise of \$3,200, and that, in fact, wages for low-income workers have been going up, but only because States and localities have been increasing the minimum wage, just like this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the vice chair of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter to all Members of the House from the AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO,  
July 12, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to vote for the "Raise the Wage Act of 2019" (H.R. 582) scheduled for floor consideration this week. This legislation would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by the year 2024. In addition to indexing future increases to the growth in the median wage, the bill would gradually eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, which has been stuck at \$2.13 since 1991.

Because Congress has not raised the minimum wage in more than 10 years, millions of our Nation's full time workers live in poverty. If the minimum wage had risen at the same pace as productivity growth since 1969, it would be over \$20 an hour today.

Phasing in a \$15 minimum wage would benefit 41 million workers and begin to address the growing crisis of wage inequality. More than half of the workers who would benefit are adults between the ages of 25 and 54, and nearly two-thirds work full time. More than half (56 percent) are women, nearly 30 percent of whom have children.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, by 2024 a single adult without children will need at least \$31,200 (\$15 per hour on an annual basis) to achieve an adequate stand-

ard of living in all parts of the country. Allowing for a lower regional minimum wage, as some have suggested, would lock millions of workers into poverty, and would be especially harmful to people of color and women who would benefit most from a minimum wage increase.

Multiple studies have shown that modest increases in the minimum wage have not resulted in significant job loss, and the income boost experienced by low-income families benefits the country overall by reducing both poverty and income inequality.

Raising the minimum wage to \$15 has the support of an overwhelming majority of Americans, and the benefits far exceed any potential cost. Once again, we urge you to vote YES on the Raise the Wage Act and NO on any weakening amendments. In addition, since any Motion to Recommit would be the equivalent of voting against the Raise the Wage Act, we urge you to vote no on the MTR.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,  
Government Affairs Department.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman BOBBY SCOTT for his incredible leadership on this bill, and I rise in strong support of the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the previous speaker and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that we are proposing precisely zero more regulation than exists. In fact, the Federal Government has set a minimum wage in this country since 1938, all the great growth years of this economy. We are just saying that the rate should be sensible.

I came to Washington to raise the standard of living for working people in Michigan's Ninth District and all across this country, and that is exactly what this bill does.

Working a full-time job should guarantee that you can provide for your family, and a \$7.25-an-hour minimum wage doesn't cut it, especially while worker productivity has increased exponentially, and executive salaries have skyrocketed.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) said the CBO score said a minimum of 1.3 million jobs would be lost. I want to correct the record. They said a minimum of zero would be. The median projection is that 1.3 million might be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind all of my colleagues that in 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that 7,769,000 American workers were working multiple jobs because one job didn't cut it, it didn't pay enough for them. And that is almost certainly an undercount, according to all experts.

If just one in five of those people being forced to work multiple jobs could quit their second and third job because one job paid enough, that would take care of 1.6 million jobs we wouldn't need, because workers were being paid a living wage.

We have waited more than 10 years to give American families a raise. And I can tell you that the people of Michigan's Ninth District, where about 104,800 people would get a raise under this bill, have waited long enough.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this historic legislation.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his extraordinary leadership, historic, really, for giving us this opportunity today to do something very special for the American people, for America's working families.

This is an historic day, yes, because we are raising the minimum wage here in the House of Representatives, because we are channeling the energy of so many people across the country for fairness in the workplace, but it also happens to be the 171st anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention.

The Seneca Falls Convention shook the world, when they had that convention, with the simple proclamation that all men and women are created equal.

This bill achieves that equality, giving nearly 20 million working women, that is nearly one-third of all working women, a raise. And it helps narrow the gender wage gap that disproportionately targets women of color, putting more money in the pockets of more than one-third of working women of color.

□ 1015

Today, we wake up for a day of jubilation because of the sense of fairness that this legislation engenders. We wake up every morning with a smile on our face, showing the world all the love in our hearts, and that love in our hearts is about fairness for the American people.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, as has been acknowledged—as I just heard Congressman LEVIN mention, and others, as well—that it has been 10 years since the Federal minimum wage was raised in the previous Democratic majority. It had been 11 years before then, when we passed it in 2007, and it was signed by President Bush.

It was bipartisan, and we were thrilled about that.

It is interesting to see what has happened in the time since then. While families work hard to make ends meet, the cost of living has surged to unsustainable highs. Inflation has eaten nearly 20 percent of their wages, and the GOP special interest agenda has left them far behind.

I mentioned that this is about equality for women. It is also about 30 million people in our country getting a raise—30 million people—and so many people being lifted out of poverty.

I talked about 2007. That is when we first passed it in the House. It took a little more time for it to be law, going through the Senate and the rest.

When we passed it, we were so thrilled, knowing that the President



would sign it. We had a big rally outside the Capitol. As soon as the rally was finished, Senator Ted Kennedy, who had been a really important part of the Senate action on raising the minimum wage, said: "You know what we have to do now? We have to raise the minimum wage!"

We always have to be injecting fairness, all the time. We must never stop fighting to honor the dignity of work and pushing forward for working families and women, again, affected so drastically in all of this.

American workers deserve a raise. No one can live with dignity on a \$7.25 per hour wage. Can you?

The Raise the Wage Act honors workers and supports families, giving 33 million Americans a long-overdue raise and lifting many out of poverty.

The bill grows our economy, increasing families' purchasing power, which drives economic growth that lifts up all communities. The consumer confidence of America's working families is an important element in growing our economy.

It brings our democracy closer to the founding ideals, upholding the bedrock idea of fairness in our country, that hard work deserves a decent wage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong, bipartisan vote for this victory for working families and for America because every Member of this institution should be fighting to put more money in the pockets of workers in their community.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by over 1,000 businesses that support a fair minimum wage.

**BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE  
FEDERAL \$15 SIGN ON STATEMENT**

PART 2 OF LIST OF ABOUT 1,000 SIGNERS AND  
COUNTING AS OF JULY 17, 2019

Alan Chebot, Owner, Parallax Productions, Allston, MA; Dean Cycon, CEO, Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company, Orange, MA; Fred Davis, President, Fred Davis Corporation, Medfield, MA; Megan Driscoll, CEO, Pharmacologics Recruiting, Quincy, MA; Dorothy Emerson, Co-founder, Rainbow Solutions, Medford, MA; Paul English, CTO and President, Lola.com Boston, MA; Rob Everts, Co-CEO, Equal Exchange West Bridgewater, MA; Jen Faigel, Executive Director, Common Wealth Kitchen, Dorchester, MA; Nancy Peton, Co-owner, Broadside Bookshop, Northampton, MA; Laura Fisher, Owner, Fisher Agencies—American Income Life, Buington, MA; Tim Fisk, Owner, Salon Herdis, Northampton, MA; Vincent Frano, Owner, The Bower Studio, Pelham, MA; Julie Fraser, Principal & Director, Lyno Advisors Inc & Present Source, Cummaquid, MA; David Gardner, President/Owner, Boyds Direct Corp, Stoneham, MA; Julie Goodridge, CEO, Northstar Asset Management, Inc., Boston, MA.

Myrna Greenfield, Owner, Good Egg Marketing, Jamaica Plain, MA; Jeff Greim, Founder/CEO, Your Choice Brands, Longmeadow, MA; Tim Greiner, Owner, Pure Strategies, Gloucester, MA; Valerie + Lhsan Gurdal, Owners, Formaggio Kitchen, Boston, MA; Abraham Gutman, President & CEO, AG Mednet, Inc., Boston, MA; Laury Hammel, Owner and CEO, The Longfellow Clubs, Wayland, MA; Laurence Hammel, Executive Director, Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts, Wayland, MA; Jackie Herskovitz Russell, Founder and President, Teak Media + Communication, Boston, MA; Shel Horowitz, Owner, Going Beyond Sustainability, Hadley, MA; Ysaira Jimenez, CEO, LaborX, Boston, MA; Michael Kanter, Owner, Cambridge Naturals, Cambridge, MA; Emily Kanter, Owner, Cambridge Naturals, Boston, MA; Stephen Katsurlnls, Owner, 8 Dyer Hotel, Provincetown, MA; Sonia Kowal, President, Zevin Asset Management, Boston, MA; Susan Labandbar, President, Tech Networks of Boston, Cambridge, MA; Mike Lapham, Project Director, Responsible Wealth, Boston, MA.

Joseph Laur, Owner, MapleMama Beverages, Wendell, MA; Gail Leondar-Wright, Owner, Gail Leondar Public Relations, Arlington, MA; Karen Levy, Owner, Karen Ann Massage, Jamaica Plain, MA; Rob Libon, Investment Advisor, Greenvest, West Whately, MA; Carol Marsh, Owner, Helios Design Group, Jamaica Plain, MA; Philip Mccarron, Owner, Beacon Solar, Fall River, MA; Ann McEwen, Hospital Administrator, Riverbend Animal Hospital, Hadley, MA; Tim McNerney, Founder, Repair Collective, Shutesbury, MA; Kim Mitchell, Owner, Boing! JP's Toy Shop, Jamaica Plain, MA; Nick Moore, Owner, Moore Agencies, Marlborough, MA; Merry Nasser, Partner, Lesser Newman Aleo & Nasser, Northampton, MA; Larry O'Toole, Founder and CEO, Gentle Giant Moving Company, Somerville, MA; Heather Odell, Owner, 3cross Fermentation Cooperative, Worcester, MA; M Older, Owner (Retired), Martha's, Cambridge, MA; John Pepper, Founder, Owner, Boloco, Boston, MA.

Berit Pratt, CEO, NitWits LLC, Belmont, MA; James Razsa, CEO, Democracy Brewing, Boston, MA; Dan Rosenberg, General Manager, Real Pickles, Greenfield, MA; Joseph Rotella, President, Spencer Organ Company, Waltham, MA; David Sandberg, Owner, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA; John Schall, Owner, El Jefe's Taqueria, Cambridge, MA; David Schreiber, Investment Advisor, CFP, Greenvest, Arlington, MA; Cullen Schwarz, Founder/CEO, DoneGood, PBC, Cambridge, MA; Anne Sherman, Director of Operations & Sustainability, Staach Inc., Cambridge, MA; Alex Silva, Owner, Best Value Janitorial, Malden, MA; Joy Silverstein, Owner, Fresh Hair, Jamaica Plain, MA; Harvy Simkovits, President, Business Wisdom, Lexington, MA; Peter Simpson, Owner, Haymarket Cafe, Northampton, MA; Holly Sklar, CEO, Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, Boston, MA; Peter Smith, Principal, Global Urban Solutions Newton, MA; Rachael Solem, Owner, Irving House at Harvard, Cambridge, MA.

Alan Solomont, Ambassador (Ret), Formerly Chairman of Solomont Bailis Ventures, Weston, MA; David Starr, Managing Partner, Berkshire Natural, Florence, MA; Dorie Stolley, Owner, Three Birds Consulting, Plymouth, MA; Robert Thomas, Social(k) Inc., Social(k) Inc., Springfield, MA; Sidney Topol, President, The Topal Group, Boston, MA; Marlo Troiani, IT Consultant, MIC, Newton, MA; David Warner, Owner, City Feed and Supply, Boston, MA; Nicola Williams, President, The Williams Agency, Cambridge, MA; Michael Alexander, President, Conscious Living, LLC, Clinton, MD; Bilal Ali, Executive Director, Omnis Health

Life Wellness Center, Baltimore, MD; Ned Atwater, Owner, Atwater's Traditional Food, Baltimore, MD; Souley Bah, Owner, Bah Agencies, Lanham, MD; Alissa Barron-Menza, Vice President, Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, Silver Spring, MD; Mitchell Berliner, Owner, Skinny Salamis, Potomac, MD.

Denise Bowyer, Vice President, American Income Life Insurance Company, North Beach, MD; Holly Budd, President/CEO, Williams & Heintz Map Corporation, Capitol Heights, MD; Andrew Buerger, Owner, B'more Organic, Baltimore, MD; Annebeth Bunker, Owner, Annebeth's, Annapolis, MD; Tim Cureton, Owner, Rise Up Coffee Roasters, Easton, MD; Brian England, President, BA Auto Care, Columbia, MD; Alan Gregerman, President and Chief Innovation Officer, VENTURE WORKS Inc., Silver Spring, MD; Seth Grimes, Owner, Alta Plana Corporation, Takoma Park, MD; Molty Hauck, President, Molly Perkins Hauck, Ph.D., LLC, Rockville, MD; Laura Hodges, Owner, Laura Hodges Studio, Catonsville, MD; Irwin Hoenig, Owner, Living Calmness, Laurel, MD; Dennis Hoffman, Owner, District East, Frederick, MD; Damian Jones, Owner, Aid Through Trade, Annapolis, MD; Jacquelyn Jones Ziegler, Owner, Sugar, Baltimore, MD; Tamira Keith, Owner, Fashion Hangers Boutique, Baltimore, MD; Devora Kimelman-Block, CEO, KOL Foods, Silver Spring, MD.

Tom Koerber, President, On Point Help, Baltimore, MD; Gabriel Kroiz, Principal, Kroiz Architecture, Baltimore, MD; Jeffrey Landsman, Owner, Specialty Food Sales, Towson, MD; Michael Lastoria, Founder and CEO, &pizza, Baltimore, MD; Ivan Makfinsky, Owner, Endosys, LLC, Montgomery Village, MD; Cerrill Meister, Owner, Eye Candy Opticianry Inc, Baltimore, MD; Nancy Meyer, CEO, Community Forklift, Edmonston, MD; John Mitchell, Owner, Interaction Law, Accokeek, MD; Karim Morsli, Owner, Winkler Automotive Service Center, Gaithersburg, MD; Scott Nash, Owner, CEO, MOM's Organic Market, Rockville, MD; Ellen Reich, Owner, Three Stone Steps, Baltimore, MD; Aaron Robb, Owner, Ramsay Construction, Baltimore, MD; Glenn Roessler, Business Development Strategist, Vigilante Coffee Company, Hyattsville, MD; Abigail Rome, Owner, Tierra Vista, Silver Spring, MD; Gina Schaefer, Owner, Canton, Federal Hill, Waverly, Old Takoma Ace Hardware Stores, Baltimore, MD; Aaron Seyedian, Owner, Well-Paid Maids, Baltimore, MD; Andy Shallal, Owner, Busboys and Poets Restaurants, Hyattsville, MD.

Daniel Solomon, Managing Member, Soapstone Investments, Bethesda, MD; Mayaah Tansi, Owner, Unik Touch Hair Palace, Windsor Mill, MD; Richard Torgerson, Registered Principal, SharePower Responsible Investing, Westminster, MD; Christopher Vigilante, Owner, Vigilante Coffee Company, Hyattsville, MD; Eleanor Whalen, CEO, Sprayology, Gaithersburg, MD; Scott Cooper, Director of Finance, Crown O'Maine, North Vassalboro, ME; Steve Corman, Owner, Vena's Fizz House, Portland, ME; Rebecca Darr, Co-Owner, Atayne Brunswick, ME; Susan Farnsworth, Owner, Farnsworth Law Office, Hallowell, ME; Michael Landgarten, CEO/Owner, Bob's Clam Hut/Lil's Cafe, Kittery, ME; Jonathan Motzkin, Co-Owner, Makewell, Portland, ME; Sharon Peralta, Principal, Custom Computer Services & more, Springvale, ME; Mike Shunney, Owner, Inner Works Center, Rockland, ME; James Wellehan, President, Lamey-Wellehan Shoes, Auburn, ME; Phillis Engelbert, Co-founder & Co-owner, The Lunch Room Diner and Canteen & The Detroit Filling Station, Ann Arbor, MI; Wap John, CEO, Grafaktri Inc., Ann Arbor, MI.

Heather Leavitt, Owner, Sweet Heather Anne, Ann Arbor, MI; Katherine Lesse, Co-Owner, Abracadabra Jewelry, Ann Arbor, MI; William Martin, Founder and Director, Bio-Health Centre, Lansing, MI; Joel Panozzo, Co-founder & Co-owner, The Lunch Room Diner and Canteen & The Detroit Filling Station, Ann Arbor, MI; Nat Pernick, CEO, PathologyOutlines.com, Inc., Bingham Farms, MI; Paul Saginaw, Co-Founding Partner, Zingerman's Community of Businesses, Ann Arbor, MI; Scott Urbanowski, Owner, Humanoid Digital, Kentwood, MI; Robert Vogt, CEO, IOSiX, Ypsilanti, MI; Arlys Alford, Owner, Believe You Can Sing!, Eden Prairie, MN; Kevin Brown, Owner, Smart Set, Inc., Minneapolis, MN; Bruce Champeau, President and COO, Room & Board, Golden Valley, MN; Bruce Champeau, President and COO, Room & Board, Edina, MN; Chad Deley, CEO, The Deley Group, Brooklyn Park, MN; Karen Denzel, CEO, Insight Restoration, Plymouth, MN; RJ Devick, President, Bond & Devick Wealth Partners, St. Louis Park, MN; Susan Edgington, Owner, Adventure Inn, Ely, MN; Audrey Fairchild-Ehm, Owner, Fairchild-Ehm Foster Care, Roseville, MN.

Eileen Fisher, Founder, EILEEN FISHER, Edina, MN; Chris Hanson, CEO, thedatabank, gbc, Saint Paul, MN; Melina Lamer, CEO, Superior Switchel, Saint Cloud, MN; Christopher Loch, Owner, CONTEMPLEB T-SHIRTS, Minneapolis, MN; Edna McKenzie, CEO, Midwest Select Contracting, Minneapolis, MN; Niel Ritchie, CEO, Main Street Project, Minneapolis, MN; Steven Rothberg, Founder, College Recruiter, Minneapolis, MN; Linh Tu, President, LKT Consulting, Brooklyn Park, MN; Randy Alberhasky, Owner, Randy Alberhasky Attorney At Law, Springfield, MO; Michael Allen, Owner, Blossoms Floral, Springfield, MO; Blanca Anchondo-Polite, Owner, Engage and Connect LLC, Kansas City, MO; Luke Babich, Principal & Chief Strategy Officer, Clever Real Estate, St. Louis, MO; Amy Blansit, Owner, Solely Jolie, Springfield, MO; Priscilla Block, Executive Director, St. Louis ArtWorks, St. Louis, MO; Keith Bradley, Co-Owner, Made in KC, Kansas City, MO; Bethany Budde-Cohen, Owner, SqWires Restaurant, St. Louis, MO; Jordan Carr, Owner, Oddities Prints, Kansas City, MO.

Jessie Chappell, Owner, CG Immigration Law, St. Louis, MO; Joseph Chevalier, Owner, Yellow Dog Bookshop, Columbia, MO; Pam Clark, Owner, Clark's Appliances, Raytown, MO; Frances Collier, Owner, CEO, River City Rebar LLC, Kansas City, MO; Zaid Consuegra, Owner & Chef, Pirate's Bone, Kansas City, MO; Caitlin Corcoran, Managing Partner, Ca Va, Kansas City, MO; Dominique Davison, Owner & CEO, DRAW Architecture, Kansas City, MO; Fred Domke, President, Bridge Bread Bakery, St. Louis, MO; Nancy Dorman, Owner, Maschino's, Springfield, MO; Mike Draper, Owner, Raygun LLC, Kansas City, MO; Keely Edgington, Owner, Julep Kansas City, MO; Joe Edwards, Owner, The Pageant & Delmar Hall Concert Nightclubs, St. Louis, MO; Joe Edwards, Owner, Blueberry Hill Restaurant & Music Club, St. Louis, MO; James Fields, Owner, Divine Deli and Drop In University, City, MO; Jeff Gold, Owner, Anji Mountain, St. Louis, MO; David Gragg, Agency Owner, David Gragg—Farmers Insurance Agent, Springfield, MO; Blake Green, Owner, BG Law, North Kansas City, MO.

Howard Hanna, Owner, The Rieger, Kansas City, MO; Ruth Ellen Hasser, Celebrant, St. Louis Ceremonies, St. Louis, MO; Pam Hausner, Owner, Big Vision Design, Kansas City, MO; Notley Hawkins, Owner, Notley Hawkins Photography, Columbia, MO; Cindy Higginson, Owner, Larder & Cupboard, Maplewood, MO; Craig Hosmer, Owner, Hosmer King & Royce, Springfield, MO; Nate Hunt,

Co-Owner, Correa-Hunt Agency, Kansas City, MO; Joe Jackson, Owner and CEO, Jackson Pianos, St. Louis, MO; Dorothy Jones, Owner, Bespoke, St. Louis, MO; Stacy Jurado-Miller, Owner, Chief Mission Officer, The Vecino Group, Springfield, MO; Karen Karabell, Managing Partner, S.F. Shannon Real Estate Management LLC, St. Louis, MO; Laurie Knowlton, Owner, Zen3 Spa and Bodyworks, Springfield, MO; Laurie Knowlton, Owner, Pickwick Underground Framing, Springfield, MO; Liz Kuba, Owner, Tea Rex, St. Louis, MO; Matthew Laufketter, Owner, The Ink Spot, St. Louis, MO; Paul Lauritsen, General Manager, Moonrise Hotel, St. Louis, MO.

Ronnie Light, Owner, Sam Light Loan Co., St. Louis, MO; Leigh Lockhart, Owner, Main Squeeze, Columbia, MO; Katie McCroskey, Co-Owner, Bob McCroskey Real Estate, Inc., Springfield, MO; Andre McCullum, Owner, Hart-McCallum Agency, Earth City, MO; Chris Meyers, Owner, Crane Brewing Company, Raytown, MO; Alyson Miller, Executive Director, Partners for Just Trade, St. Louis, MO; Andrew Montee, Owner, Mokaska Coffee Company, St. Joseph, MO; Erin Noble, VP of Business Operations, StraightUp Solar LLC, St. Louis, MO; Hilary Noonan, Principal, Syntax Land Design, LLC, Kansas City, MO; Dorian Oldham, Owner, Oldham Midwest, Kansas City, MO; Lew Prince, Co-Founder & CEO (Ret.), Vintage Vinyl, St. Louis, MO; Marissa Rosen, Owner, Climate Social, St. Louis, MO; Julie Sommer, Owner & Operating Manager, Sommer Property Investments, LLC, St. Louis, MO; Matthew Thenhaus, Owner & General Manager, The Fortune Teller Bar, St. Louis, MO; Phil Wages, Co-Owner, Wages Brewing Company, West Plains, MO; Peter Wallach, Director, Peter Wallach Fine Art, St. Louis, MO; Nick Ward-Bopp, Owner, Maker Village, Kansas City, MO.

Bridget Weible, Owner, Flowers to the People, St. Louis, MO; William Handsaker, Partner, C&J Painting, Bozeman, MT; Anne Alexander, Owner, Authentic Alternatives, Inc., Pisgah Forest, NC; Elizabeth Altman, Owner, New Bridge Organic Market, Jacksonville, NC; Philip Chagnon, Owner/Manager, Residential Rental Properties, Raleigh, NC; Kristen Daniels, Owner, Kamibashi Corporation, Leicester, NC; Susan Inglis, Executive Director, Sustainable Furnishings Council, Edenton, NC; Jeffrey Jones, Owner, Rock Hard Media Group, Bolivia, NC; Angela McElwee, President, Gaia Herbs, Brevard, NC; Antonio Reyes, Owner, Reyes Agency, Mathews, NC; Lloyd Smith, President and CEO, Cortech Solutions, Wilmington, NC; Daniel Swimm, Founder, Grow Fragrance, Durham, NC; Gunnar Berg, Partner, Hill People LLC, N. Sandwich, NH; Jessica Christoferson, Owner, Cymbidium Floral, Exeter, NH; Rebecca Hamilton, Co-CEO and Family Owner, W.S. Badger Company, Gilsum, NH; Kyle Swann, Owner, Angelica's Muse, Portsmouth, NH.

Kris Thieme, Owner, Thieme Agency, Londonderry, NH; Esteve Torrens, CEO, Stonyfield Farm, Londonderry, NH; Bill Whyte, Co-Founder, W.S. Badger Company, Gilsum, NH; Jeffrey Axelbank, Owner, Jeffrey Axelbank, Psy.D., Highland Park, NJ; Alicia Biasotti Belotta, Owner, ACB Consulting Services, Verona, NJ; Mitch Cahn, President, Unionwear, Newark, NJ; Vincent Clyne, Managing Partner, PAIRINGS, Cranford, NJ; James Devine, Owner, CEO, Devine Advertising Associates, Rahway, NJ; Gall Friedberg, Vice President, Zago Manufacturing Company, Newark, NJ; Timothy Giordano, Attorney, Timothy K. Giordano, Esq., Montclair, NJ; Richard Lawton, Founder, Triple Ethos, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ; Richard Lawton, Executive Director, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, Point

Pleasant Beach, NJ; Sally Malanga, CEO, Ecco Bella, West Orange, NJ; Myles Mendoza, Owner & Design Director, Designmaster Group, Edgewater, NJ; Eric Russell, Owner, Drinkable Air Northeast, Basking Ridge, NJ; Andy Smith, Owner, Andy Smith Photography, Newton, NJ; Chet Van Wert, President, Sustainable Business Partners, Scotch Plains, NJ.

Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO, Earth Friendly Products (Makers of ECOS), Parsippany, NJ; Kimi Wei, CEO, The Wei, Fair Lawn, NJ; Adam Woods, CEO, Camden Printworks, Camden, NJ; Dr. Kathleen Burke, MD, Las Cruces, NM; Beatriz Ferreira, Owner, Paz International, Las Cruces, NM; Elene Gusch, CEO, Kuan Yin Acupuncture, Albuquerque, NM; Linda Lillow, Owner, Triple L, Ink Graphic Design, Albuquerque, NM; Alston Lundgren, Owner (retired), Alston C Lundgren, MD, PC, Santa Fe, NM; Judith Shipy, President, Solutions!, Albuquerque, NM; Drew Tulchin, Owner, UpSpring, Santa Fe, NM; Anam Kinsey, Owner, BnB SEO, Reno, NV; Corey Neff, Owner, Neff Agency, Las Vegas, NV; Steven Abel, CEO, Center for Mediation & Training, Upper Nyack, NY; Nick Balaban, President, Nick Balaban Music, Inc., Brooklyn, NY; Sebastian Bardin-Greenberg, Owner, Overtime Records, Brooklyn, NY; Dave Bauer, President & Owner, The Change Circle, Inc., Williamsville, NY; David Bolotsky, Founder and CEO, UncommonGoods, Brooklyn, NY.

Nancy Boyd, President, Bright Wings Inc., Briarcliff Manor, NY; Richard Brook, Member, Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, New York, NY; Ann Bryan, Owner, Ann Krupp Designer Goldsmith, Saugerties, NY; Simon Burke-Lipiczky, Owner, Build Smart With Simon, Troy, NY; Linda Christensen, Owner, Blue Quarry Designs, Trumansburg, NY; Jon Cooper, President, Spectronics Corporation, Westbury, NY; Jennifer Dotson, Executive Director, Ithaca Carshare, Ithaca, NY; Marie Duryea, President, Special Instruction, Northport, NY; Kathie Fox, Co-Owner, Fanciful Fox, New York, NY; Jeff Furman, Board Member Emeritus, Ben & Jerry's, Ithaca, NY; Ajax Greene, Founder/CEO, On Belay Business Advisors Inc., Gardiner, NY; Brett Gryska, Owner, Oldham-Gryska Agency, Rochester, NY; Valerie + Ihsan Gurdal, Owners, Formaggio Kitchen, New York, NY; Amy Hall, Vice President, Social Consciousness, EILEEN FISHER, Irvington, NY; Susan Hansen, Owner, Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc., Fayetteville, NY; Seth Hirsh, President, Equus Bloodstock LLC, North Woodmere, NY; Kathleen Hoffman, Owner, Law Office of Thomas Hoffman, New York, NY.

Brian Hogan, Owner, ICT, Bronx, NY; Jeffrey Hollender, Founder, Jeffrey Hollender Partners, New York, NY; Eric Horowitz, Owner, The Double Windsor, Brooklyn, NY; Gintas Janusonis, Owner, Janusonic Music, Brooklyn, NY; Margaret Johnston, Owner, BEZ Services LLC, Binghamton, NY; Heidi Jones, Partner, Allen Street Consulting, Buffalo, NY; Iva Kaufman, Principal, Iva Kaufman Associates, New York, NY; Jenny Krauss, President, Jenny Krauss, New York, NY; Carole Laible, CEO, Domini Impact Investments, New York, NY; David Levine, President, American Sustainable Business Council, New York, NY; Paul Lightfoot, CEO, BrightFarms, Inc., New York, NY; Bright Limm, Owner, Principal, Bright D Limm, Esq., Flushing, NY; George McDonald, President, The Doe Fund, New York, NY; Keith Mestrich, President and CEO, Amalgamated Bank, New York, NY; Jeff Mikkelsen, Owner, Jeff Mikkelsen Photography, New York, NY; Michael Miller, Managing Partner, Rowan Consulting, Howard Beach, NY; Leon Miller-Out, President/CTO, Singlebrook Technology, Ithaca, NY.

Prish Moran, Owner, Sweet ness 7 Café, Buffalo, NY; Joshua Morton, Owner, Proof of Concept, LLC, Brooklyn, NY; Ean Murphy, Managing Partner, Moxie Bookkeeping, New York, NY; Michael Owen, Principal, MediaCombo, New York, NY; Clifton Patrick, Owner, Clifton Patrick P&C Insurance, Chester, NY; Del Pedro, Managing Partner, Tooker Alley, Brooklyn, NY; Eleanor Prior, Owner, Prior Beeswax, Germantown, NY; Erwin Rakoczy, Director, CUFF, Clarence, NY; Jan Rhodes Norman, Owner, Silk Oak, Ithaca, NY; Jonathan Rose, President, Jonanthan Rose Companies, New York, NY; Darius Ross, Managing Partner, D Alexander Ross Real Estate Capital Partners, New York, NY; Patrick Rousseau, Owner, Iris MediaWorks, Brooklyn, NY; Leshi Sagan, Owner, Avital's Apiaries, Ithaca, NY; Steven Salsberg, Chairman, Global Access, New York, NY; Jeffrey Scales, Managing Principal, JSA Financial Group, Rhinebeck, NY; Elizabeth Scalisi, Owner/President, Green Effects Landscaping Services, Inc., Manlius, NY; Jason Schuler, Founder and President, Drink More Good, Beacon, NY.

Elizabeth Schwartz, Co-Owner, Better Speech Now, Long Island City, NY; Dylan Skolnick, Co-Director, Cinema Arts Centre, Huntington, NY; Esther Sokolsky, Co-Owner, Granny Press, Nyack, NY; Simon Thoresen, Owner, Thoresen and Linard Architects, New York, NY; Scott Tillitt, Founder, Antidote Collective, Beacon, NY; Scott Tillitt, Founder, BEAHIVE, Beacon, NY; Brad Walrod, President, Kenoza Type, Inc., Kenoza Lake, NY; Steve Zorn, Racing Manager/Owner, Castle Village Farm, Garden City, NY; Pat Benedure, Owner, The SS Bendure-Hartwig Group, Columbus, OH; Nicholas Eastman, President, Electroschild, Yellow Springs, OH; Kevin Holtz, Owner, Holtz Agency, Cincinnati, OH; Gary Johnson, President, AFI Contractors, Toledo, OH; Chris Kloth, Owner, ChangeWorks of the Heartland, Columbus, OH; Steve Mokris, Owner, Kosada, Athens, OH; Matthew Parks, Owner, SS-Parks-Salvaggi Agency, North Royalton, OH; Jim Surace, Owner, Surace-Smith Agency, North Royalton, OH; Paul Akins, Owner, Distinctive Designs Salon, The Village, OK.

Andrea Anderson, Owner, AM Artistry Printing & Vinyl, Oklahoma City, OK; Dorshak Blok, Owner, Planet Dorshak, Oklahoma City, OK; William Bourne, Owner, Bachle's Fireplace Furnishings, Oklahoma City, OK; Lourdes Chavez, Owner, Dog Dynasty Grooming, Oklahoma City, OK; Ely Cocklin, Owner, BY.E Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK; Michael Dixon, Owner, Earthwise Pet Supply, Oklahoma City, OK; John Dunning, Owner, Trolley Stop Record Shop, Oklahoma City, OK; Jerry Fina, Owner, Dee's Shoe Repair, Oklahoma City, OK; Rex Friend, Attorney at Law, Attorney at Law, Oklahoma City, OK; Gena Goforth, Owner, Architectural Hardware Designs, Oklahoma City, OK; Diana Harris, Owner, Bad Granny's Bazaar, Oklahoma City, OK; Kyle Hix, Owner, Hix Design, Oklahoma City, OK; Angela Hodgkinson, Co-Owner, Solare, Oklahoma City, OK; Anthony Hurndon, Owner, K. Marie's Premium Kutz & Stylez, Oklahoma City, OK; Samuel Jones, Owner, Sammy's Barber Shop, Oklahoma City, OK; Phillip Jordan, Owner, Fitzgerald's Barber & Supply, Oklahoma City, OK; Ron Lira, Owner, Honest Ron's Guitars, Oklahoma City, OK.

Charles Martin, Owner, Literati Press, Oklahoma City, OK; Richard Mills, Owner, The Scuba Dudes, Oklahoma City, OK; Bryan Moore, Barber, Rooted Barber Shop, Oklahoma City, OK; Pam Nath, Owner, Drybar, Oklahoma City, OK; Jessi Newsome, Co-Owner, OKcollective Candle Co., Oklahoma City, OK; Seth Nun, Owner, AM: Donuts, Oklahoma City, OK; Patrick Patterson,

Owner, Prairie Arts Collective, Oklahoma City, OK; Max Radcliffe, Owner, Annex Barber Shop, Oklahoma City, OK; Aadi Rajbhandari, Co-Owner, Fix A Phone, Oklahoma City, OK; Chelsea Ricks, Owner, Chantilly Couture, Oklahoma City, OK; Angel Rivera, Owner, Manhattan Tailors, Oklahoma City, OK; James Scott, Owner, Scott's General Store, Oklahoma City, OK; John Seward, Co-Founder, AMP Variety, Oklahoma City, OK; Mandy Smith, Owner, The Motley Parlour, Oklahoma City, OK; Julie Stanfill, Owner, Julie's Barber Shop, Oklahoma City, OK; Beth Stetson, Weddle Prof. of Accounting, U. of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Vartan "Tony" Tonian, Owner, A1 NW Vacuum & Janitor Supplies, Oklahoma City, OK.

Eden Turrentine, Owner, Eden, Oklahoma City, OK; Robin Venters, Owner, OKC Music and Sound, Oklahoma City, OK; Paul Windham, Owner, The Mattress Place, Oklahoma City, OK; Pete & Jeanie Barkett, Owner, Vinnie's Pizza, Portland, OR; Adrienne Catone, CEO, Faerie's Dance, Inc., Happy Valley, OR; Daniel Davis, Owner and President, D2X Construction LLC/D2X Associates, Central Point, OR; Larry Fried, Owner, Do Good Investing, LLC, Eugene, OR; Rosa Gerstner, Owner, Sympatico Clothing, Jacksonville, OR; Nicole Loffler, Owner, Nomadics Tipi Makers, Bend, OR; Kevin Marr, Owner, Motel Del Rogue, Grants Pass, OR; Constance Palaia, Owner, Motel Del Rogue, Grants Pass, OR; Mitch Rofsky, President, Better World Club, Portland, OR; Julie Wasmer, Owner, Food Smart LLC, Corvallis, OR; Dana Weintraub, Owner, Evergreen Sustainability, LLC, Beaverton, OR; Eugene Aleci, Owner, Community Heritage Partners, Lancaster, PA; Simon Arias, Owner, Arias Agencies, Wexford, PA; Benjamin Bingham, CEO, Scarab Funds, Philadelphia, PA.

Laura Blau, Principal, BluPath Design, Philadelphia, PA; Mark Bortman, Owner, Exact Solar, Yardley, PA; Peg Botto, Owner, Cosmic Catering, Philadelphia, PA; Jonathan Brandow, Owner, BizMiner, Camp Hill, PA; Pelcha Chang, CEO, Vault+Vine, Philadelphia, PA; Matt Cleveland, Owner, Occasions Disc Jockeys, Elizabethtown, PA; Charlie Crystle, Principal, Crystle Consulting, Lancaster, PA; Amy Edelman, Owner, Night Kitchen Bakery, Philadelphia, PA; Jennie Groff, CEO, Stroopies, Inc., Lancaster, PA; Kenny Grono, President, Buckminster Green, Philadelphia, PA; Steve Hackman, Owner, One Village Coffee, Souderton, PA; Michael Lastoria, Founder and CEO, &pizza, Philadelphia, PA; Cindy Lou, Owner, Cindy's Pet Care, Philadelphia, PA; Patrick McMahon, CEO, One Point, Scranton, PA; Scott Nash, Owner, CEO, MOM's Organic Market, Bryn Mawr, PA; Michael O'Connor, Owner, La Barberia Jenkintown, PA; Gerald Onesi, Owner, West Side Auto Repair, Uniontown, PA.

Jesse Pellman, Co-Owner, Longview Structures Lancaster, PA; Salam Quadri, Owner, P&Q Partners, Blue Bell, PA; Anna Shipp, Executive Director, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Brian Taussig-Lux, Co-founder, Untours, Media, PA; John Traynor, Owner, Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center, Harrisburg, PA; Ken Weinstein, Owner, Trolley Car Diner, Philadelphia, PA; Peggy Zwerver, Owner, Earth—Bread+ Brewery, Philadelphia, PA; Katie Dyer, Owner, Cadeaux du Mende, Newport, RI; Deborah Schimberg, CEO, Verve, Inc./Glee Gum, Providence, RI; Lee Barbour, CEO, Avant Garage, Charleston, SC; Judy Doty, Operations Manager & Co-Founder, Doty Scientific, Columbia, SC; Jamee Haley, Executive Director, Lowcountry Local First, Charleston, SC; Brady Quirk-Garvan, Owner, Money With A Mission, North Charleston, SC; Mark Tilsen,

President & Co-Founder, Native American Natural Foods, Kyle, SD; Richard Aberdeen, President, Freedom Tracks Records, Hermitage, TN; Ruth Black, Owner/Operator, Hidden Springs Nursery, Cookeville, TN.

Maryanna Clarke, Founding Artistic Director, Tennessee Women's Theater Project, Nashville, TN; Doug Havron, Owner, Gabby's Burgers and Fries, Nashville, TN; MaryAnne Howland, CEO, Ibis, Communications Nashville, TN; Stephen Prince, Owner, Card Marketing Services, Nolensville, TN; Sherry Stewart Deutschmann, Founder, Letterlogic, Inc., Nashville, TN; Malissa Anderson, President, EarthWorksTile, Burnet, TX; Chris Applegate, Owner, SHED Barber and Supply, Austin, TX; Domenico Bertini, Executive Vice President, American Income Life, Waco, TX; Kelly Blanscet, Owner, Graphic Granola, Austin, TX; Beth Carls, CEO, OneSeventeen Media, PBC, Austin, TX; Bruce Champeau, President and COO, Room & Board, Dallas, TX; Ronnie "Merlot" Coleman, Jr., Owner, Merlot's Barbershop, Houston, TX; Ed Fiedler, Owner, Fiedler On the Roof Construction, Austin, TX; Elien Fisher, Founder, EILEEN FISHER, Dallas, TX; Steve Greer, CEO, American Income Life/National Income Life, Waco, TX; Manish Gupta, Owner/CEO, Matr Boomie, Austin, TX; Angela Hudson, Co-Owner, Memorial Music, Houston, TX.

Cliff Hybarger, Owner, Charde Jewelers, Houston, TX; Michael Jones, Owner, River Oaks Bookstore, Houston, TX; Max Kabat, Co-Founder, goodDog, Marfa, TX; Linda J. Mann, Owner, Old Blue House Antiques, Houston, TX; Amanda May, Owner, The Purple Fig Eco Cleaning Co., Austin, TX; Mike Mulloy, Owner, House of Coffee Beans, Houston, TX; Tuyen Kim Ngyuen, Owner, A One Hour Alteration, Houston, TX; Carol Niemi, Owner, Aloha Services Houston, TX; Leslie Ohayon, Owner, Sacred Leaf Wellness, Houston, TX; Adam Orman, Owner/GM, L'Oca d'Oro, Austin, TX; Manuel Oviedo, Owner, Town & Country Tailors, Houston, TX; Dave Panganiban, Owner, Tea Bar and Organics, Houston, TX; Dorothy Perez, Owner, AllArt Framing & Gallery, Houston, TX; Cindy Reich, Owner, Whim Boutique, Houston, TX; Mustafa Saleem, Owner, Guzy 'N' Style, Houston, TX; Mary Shaffer, Owner, Shaffer Studios, Marfa, TX; Suzanne Smith, Founder, Social Impact Architects, Dallas, TX.

Michael Vasu, Owner, Vasu Agency, Houston, TX; Melissa Vogt, Managing Director, The Butterfly Bar @ The VORTEX, Austin, TX; Matt Wright, Co-Founder, Little Brother Bar, Austin, TX; Matt Wright, Owner, Better Half Coffee & Cocktails, Austin, TX; Matt Wright, Owner, Wright Bros. Brew & Brew, Austin, TX; Uriel Yoemi, Owner, Custom With Us LLC, Houston, TX; Karim Ziltoun, Owner, Sam's Repair, Houston, TX; Ziad Zobaity, Owner, Ziad's Beauty Salon, Houston, TX; Darwin Crosland, CEO & Founder, Abundant Life Social Services, Syracuse, UT; Barry Clemson, Owner, Cybemetica Press, Norfolk, VA; Bruce Grossberg, owner, Buz and Ned's Real Barbecue, Richmond, VA; Michael Lastoria, Founder and CEO, &pizza, Alexandria, VA; Sandra Leibowitz, Managing Principal, Sustainable Design Consulting, Richmond, VA; Sarah Mason, Owner, Poseidon's Pantry, Chincoteague, VA; Scott Nash, Owner, CEO, MOM's Organic Market, Arlington, VA; James Samans, Executive Member, XENSHA, Alexandria, VA.

Gina Schaefer, Owner, Old Town Ace Hardware, Alexandria, VA; Andy Shallal, Owner, Busboys & Poets Restaurants, Arlington, VA; Yvonne Baab, Owner, Global Gifts, Montpelier, VT; Joey Bergsteln, CEO, Seventh Generation, Burlington, VT; Theodore Casparian, Founder, Sustainable Investing 4 All, Morrisville, VT; Ben Cohen, Co-Founder, Ben and Jerry's, South Burlington, VT; Elizabeth Glenshaw, President, Clean Yield

Asset Management Norwich, VT; Patricia C. Heffernan, President and Founder, Marketing Partners Burlington, VT; Jeffrey Hollender, Chairman, Sustain Natural, Burlington, VT; Sascha Mayer, CEO, Mamava, Burlington, VT; Sue Morris, Owner, Editide, Marshfield, VT; Todd Walker, Senior Financial Advisor, Greenvest, Wells, VT; Martin Wolf, Director, Product Sustainability, Seventh Generation, Burlington, VT; Rick Altig, President, Altig International, Redmond, WA; Denise Attwood, Owner, Ganesh Himal Trading, Spokane, WA; Kelly Bell, Founder, Gotham City Drupal, Mossyrock, WA.

Diane Emerson, Associate, Watershed LLC, Vashon, WA; Kelsey Marshall, Co-Founder, Grounds for Change, Poulsbo, WA; William McColl, Owner, McColl Studio, Blaine, WA; Gage Mitchell, Owner, Principal, Modern Species, Seattle, WA; John Perkins, CEO, Dream Change, Bainbridge Island, WA; Jyoti Stephens, Sustainability and Stewardship Manager, Nature's Path, Richmond, WA; Sash Sunday, Owner, OlyKraut, Olympia, WA; Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO, Earth Friendly Products (Makers of ECOS), Lacey, WA; Bruce Wade, Owner, Taurus Tech, Mount Vernon, WA; Eric Yarnell, President, Heron Botanicals, Kingston, WA; Michael Katz, President, Molded Dimensions, Port Washington, WI; Gary Lemke, Owner, Gary L. Lemke Landscaping, Potter, WI; Margaret May, Owner, May Educational Psychology, Richland Center, WI; Jerry McGeorge, Vice President of Cooperative Affairs, Organic Valley, La Farge, WI; Jerry Moors, Senior VP of Sales, Springs Window Fashions, Middleton, WI; Mary Stelletello, Founder, Vista Global Coaching & Consulting, Madison, WI.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I have a unique perspective on this issue. I was a businessman. Before I ran for Congress, I founded a small business with just a few employees. Now, I own a business with over 7,000 employees in 25 States.

At my company, we understand that if you take care of your team members by paying them a living wage, they will take care of our customers, and our business will do better because of it. Everyone wins.

This isn't hypothetical for me. My business operates in many cities, like Seattle, with a \$15 minimum wage. When the laws changed, we didn't cut jobs, and our business did not suffer. Quite the opposite.

When we raise the wage, we see 1.3 million Americans lifted out of poverty, 600,000 of whom are children; we see families who can afford their rent, healthcare, and other necessities; and we see a stronger economy.

When we raise the wage, we see a win for business, a win for working families, and a win for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for his leadership on this critically important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I started, like many folks did, working when I was a young man. People have different reasons for seeking employment. I needed to get out of the house, as some things were happening at the house, but I didn't have any skills.

I rode my bike to a nearby farm, and I picked fruit. I didn't make minimum wage because I couldn't pick fruit fast enough, because I didn't have the skills to do that when I was 13 years old, but I learned to show up on time with a good attitude. That is a valuable thing. That is where we start out.

That job wouldn't have been available if this minimum wage of \$15, enacted from the Federal level, would have forced that employer to make a choice whether they hired me or hired somebody else. I didn't want to make the minimum wage. I wanted to make the maximum wage, but I had to have some skills.

The next job I got still wasn't minimum wage, but I worked hard. Now, I had the skill of showing up on time with a good attitude. I kept on doing better and better and better for myself because the jobs were available.

Mr. Speaker, if this legislation is enacted, young people and people at the bottom of the economic spectrum that we are trying to help are not going to have that opportunity. That is what this is really about in America, having opportunity.

A minimum wage requirement from the Federal level doesn't draw any distinctions between Los Angeles and Gratz, Pennsylvania, a great little town that I am privileged to represent. It doesn't draw a distinction between Chicago or Shiremanstown. It says they all have to do the same thing. Dover or New York, all the same wage, really.

I don't have tall skyscrapers in central Pennsylvania like they do in New York City, Chicago, and L.A., but I have hardworking people who want the opportunity that is provided by the market.

There are 7.5 million jobs open right now. The market is providing the wages to incentivize people to come to them, and they have an opportunity to go to another job and make even more under the free market.

The Federal Government is going to stifle that with this \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us not to vote for this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague that his vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 35 percent of the workers in his district in Pennsylvania an average raise of about \$3,200 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, there should not be anybody in this room arguing that \$7.25 an hour is sufficient for a worker's well-being. When adjusted for inflation, \$7.25 is less than the Federal minimum wage of 50 years ago.

I support this bill because 98,000 workers in my district in Pennsylvania deserve a long-overdue raise. We are now in the midst of the longest period of time without an increase to the Federal minimum wage.

I support this bill because, while corporations are making record profits off the backs of workers, wage stagnation and increased cost of living have bankrupted hardworking families across my district.

This bill would increase the minimum wage gradually.

This is not a "bad for business" piece of legislation, as my colleagues across the aisle allege. It is a "good for everyone" bill that puts more money into our workers' pockets.

Our colleagues of the past would be baffled by the opposition to this bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. WILD. The Federal Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938 for the explicit purpose of protecting workers from substandard wages. That landmark bill passed the House by a vote of 291-89.

By the letter of that law, the minimum standard of living necessary for a worker's well-being is in Congress' hands. Members of both parties chose not to leave it up to market forces because poverty-level wages, sweatshops, and poor working conditions should not happen in the United States of America in 1938 or in 2019.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT).

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, or, as it should be called, the Raising Unemployment for American Workers Act.

I was disappointed to hear that Democratic members on the Rules Committee failed to make my amendment in order. The amendment prohibited H.R. 582 from going into effect if the Government Accountability Office found that over 500,000 jobs would be lost to automation as a direct result of this legislation, a very reasonable amendment.

This amendment was intended to make sure that, in seeking to improve economic outcomes for workers, especially lower-wage and lesser-skilled workers, we don't adopt policies that have the opposite effect.

This radical legislation would more than double the Federal minimum wage, the largest-ever increase since its creation. The recent Congressional Budget Office report on this bill paints a bleak picture of the consequences if it ever becomes law.

When fully implemented, this legislation would result in as many as 3.7 million, almost 270,000 from the State of Texas, jobs lost. Across the country, total real family income would drop by \$9 billion.

At a time when the economy is expanding, wages are rising above inflation, and unemployment is the lowest it has been in decades, we should not be considering job-killing, income-reducing legislation.

The negative impacts of such a disastrous bill would be felt in high-income urban areas, but they would be even more severe in lower income rural areas. The economic conditions of Navarro County, Texas, in my district, where the median income is \$45,000 a year, are not the same as San Francisco, where the median income is more than double that. A federally mandated doubling of the minimum wage would burden these people and businesses, forcing them to cut hours, let employees go, and close business doors.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WRIGHT. My colleagues across the aisle like to point to the number of people who will be lifted out of poverty but consistently fail to acknowledge that the same number of Americans are expected to lose their jobs. It seems to me that this bill is a sweet deal, but only if you get to keep your job.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleague from Texas that a vote against this bill is a vote to deny about 30 percent of the workers in his district in Texas an average raise of about \$3,800 a year.

I also will point out that the same CBO report that he cited cites the three most recent studies showing the number of jobs will actually go up as a direct result of the passage of this bill, and 27 million people are getting a raise.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from women's community groups in support of this legislation.

JULY 15, 2019.

Pass the Raise the Wage Act

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As members of a broad coalition of organizations that promote economic security and equity for women, we strongly urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act as a top priority of the 116th Congress.

The Raise the Wage Act will raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour by 2024, then index the minimum wage so that it continues to rise along with wages overall. It will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage.

Women across the country—especially women of color—continue to experience a pay gap and a higher risk of poverty than men. Women working full time, year round typically make only 80 percent of what their male counterparts make, leaving a wage gap

of 20 cents on the dollar. This wage gap varies by race and is larger for women of color: Black women working full time, year round typically make only 61 cents, Native women only 58 cents, and Latinas only 53 cents, for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts. While Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women make 85 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, many AAPI communities experience drastically wider pay gaps.

Women's overrepresentation in low-wage jobs is a driving force behind the gender pay gap. Women are close to two-thirds of the workforce in jobs that pay the minimum wage or just a few dollars above it, as well as two-thirds of workers in tipped jobs. Women of color are particularly overrepresented among tipped workers and other low-wage workers. They are particularly harmed by the \$7.25 federal minimum wage that has not gone up in a decade and by the \$2.13 tipped minimum cash wage that has been frozen for an astonishing 28 years.

Poverty-level wages heighten women's economic vulnerability, which in turn heightens their vulnerability to sexual harassment on the job. Women who rely on tips to survive often feel compelled to tolerate inappropriate behavior from customers so as not to jeopardize their income and employers are often unwilling to protect their employees for fear of upsetting a paying customer. Women's lack of economic power in these workplaces perpetuates the already pervasive culture of sexual harassment in industries that employ large numbers of tipped workers.

The Raise the Wage Act is critically needed to advance women's economic security and dignity in the workplace. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would give nearly one in three working women a raise, including 41 percent of Black working women, 38 percent of working Latinas, 29 percent of white working women, and 18 percent of Asian working women.

Women and people of color have been left behind by our economy and our policies far too often, for far too long. Adopting the Raise the Wage Act would mark a crucial step toward ensuring they can work with equity, dignity, and safety. There is no more fitting way to begin this historic Congress than by making real, concrete progress in ensuring all women receive adequate pay.

We urge you to prioritize the Raise the Wage Act in the 116th Congress by swiftly passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women; 9to5 Georgia; A Better Balance; Abortion Access Front; ACCESS; African American Health Alliance; All-Options; Amara Legal Center; American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; AFT Local 1766 (Union of Rutgers Administrators); American Medical Student Association; American Psychological Association; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO; Black Women's Roundtable; MS Black Women's Roundtable; Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition.

California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; Cambridge Committee to Raise the Minimum Wage; Caring Across Generations; Center for American Progress; Center for Frontline Retail; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Popular Democracy; Chelsea Collaborative; Citizen Action of New York; Clearinghouse on Women's Issues.

Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); California Capital Chapter, CLUW; Capital Area Chapter, CLUW; Chesapeake Bay Chapter, CLUW; Chicago Chapter, CLUW; Cleveland Chapter, CLUW; Florida Chapter, CLUW; Genesee County Chapter, CLUW; Grand Prairie Arlington Chapter, CLUW; Greater Kansas City Chapter, CLUW.

Greater New Jersey Chapter, CLUW; Greater Oklahoma City Chapter, CLUW; Houston Chapter, CLUW; Kate Mullany Chapter, CLUW; King County Chapter, CLUW; Lorain County Chapter, CLUW; Los Angeles Chapter, CLUW; Metro-Detroit Chapter, CLUW; Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter, CLUW; Missouri Chapter, CLUW.

Northeast Cleveland Chapter, CLUW; Pennsylvania State Chapter, CLUW; Philadelphia Chapter, CLUW; Rhode Island Chapter, CLUW; San Diego Chapter, CLUW; San Francisco Chapter, CLUW; Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter, CLUW; St. Louis Chapter, CLUW; Western New York Chapter, CLUW; Western Virginia Chapter, CLUW.

Coalition on Human Needs; Color of Change; Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF); Criminalization of Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies; Day One; Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment & Appeals Project; Economic Opportunity Institute; Empire Justice Center; Equal Rights Advocates; Equality North Carolina.

Equality Ohio; Fair World Project; Federally Employed Women; Feminist Majority Foundation; Food Chain Workers Alliance; Forward Together; Found Objects Transformed; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Futures Without Violence; Gender Justice.

Health Care for America Now; If/When/How; Lawyering for Reproductive Justice; Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault; In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda; Innovation Ohio Education Fund; Institute for Women's Policy Research; Interfaith Worker Justice; Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action; Jewish Women International; Jobs With Justice; Jobs With Justice, Cleveland; Jobs With Justice, St. Joseph Valley Project.

Justice for Migrant Women; Kentucky Equal Justice Center; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA); Las Hermanas USA; Laundry Workers Center; Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund; Maine Women's Lobby; Massachusetts Voter Table; Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Organization (MASH); Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

MNCASA; Moms Demand Action, Triad North Carolina; MomsRising; NAACP; NARAL Pro-Choice, North Carolina; National Alliance to End Sexual Violence; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF); National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts Chapter; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Coalition for the Homeless.

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Central Ohio Chapter; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Queen City Metropolitan Chapter; National Committee on Pay Equity; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona; National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans; National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Employment Law Project; National Employment Lawyers Association.

National Immigration Law Center; National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH); National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund; National Network of Abortion Funds; National Organization for Women (NOW);



NOW, Louisiana; NOW, North Carolina; NOW, Raleigh; NOW, Southwest Pennsylvania; NOW, Triad North Carolina.

National Partnership for Women & Families; National Women's Law Center; National Women's Health Network; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; New Voices for Reproductive Justice; New York Union Child Care Coalition; North Carolina State AFL-CIO; North Carolina Women United.

Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health; Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence; Ohio Domestic Violence Network; Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Oklahoma Women's Coalition; Organization United for Respect; Oxfam America; Path Ways PA; Pennsylvania NOW; People For the American Way.

PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts); Physicians for Reproductive Health; PL+US: Paid Leave for the United States; PowHer New York; Project IRENE; Public Justice Center; PWN-USA; Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition; Restaurant Opportunities Centers United; Restaurant Opportunities Center, Pennsylvania.

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS); Shriver Center on Poverty Law; Solace Crisis Treatment Center; Tennessee Valley Coalition to End Homelessness; Tewa Women United; The Women's Law Center of Maryland; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries; United for A Fair Economy.

United Democratic Women of MD, Inc.; URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; V.I. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Council; Valencia Shelter Services; Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Voices for Progress; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy; Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Women & Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania; Women Employed; Women Lawyers of Sacramento; Women of Reform Judaism; Women's Law Project; Women's Rights and Empowerment Network; Women's Medical Fund, Pennsylvania; WomenRising, Inc.; Working Washington/Fair Work Center; Workplace Fairness.

WV FREE; Yellowhammer Fund; YWCA USA; YWCA, Dayton; ZERO TO THREE.

□ 1030

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to give more than 33 million deserving Americans a raise by voting for the Raise the Wage Act.

I want to commend Chairman SCOTT and his staff for their outstanding work to get us to this point.

The current Federal minimum wage rate hasn't budged in a decade, but basic costs have, and they have dramatically. It is an affront to basic fairness and an intolerable conditions for families working hard yet falling further and further behind.

They live on a razor's edge facing impossible choices:

Paying the rent or the car;

Buying diapers and formula for their children or medication for themselves;

Cutting a check for a student loan debt payment or a doctor's visit.

Today, a single mother with two children working full-time at \$7.25 an hour is living well below the Federal poverty line. We can fix that by voting to give her a raise.

Let's do the same for the rest of America by passing the Raise the Wage Act. It is long overdue.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the chair of the Committee on Small Business.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am from New York, and I rise in support of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 for workers in my district and workers everywhere, particularly rural America.

The Raise the Wage Act is a long overdue minimum wage increase that will lift wages for millions of Americans and boost the small business economy.

Today, under the current minimum wage of just \$7.25 per hour, American workers and their families are living on the margins. They spend nights at the dinner table having to decide whether to pay for their child's school trip or groceries for the week.

If we are to build a better economy for all Americans, we must ensure that our workers can make a good living and have a good life.

Poll after poll shows that small business owners support raising the minimum wage. This is because doing so has been proven to help small firms better retain employees who, in turn, are more productive and higher performing.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a sign-on statement from Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

#### BUSINESS FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE FEDERAL \$15 SIGN ON STATEMENT

As business owners and executives, we support gradually raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024. It's good for business, good for customers and good for our economy.

Workers are also customers. Today's \$7.25 minimum wage—just \$15,080 a year for full-time workers—doesn't even cover the basics. Raising the minimum wage puts money in the pockets of people who most need to spend it, increasing sales at businesses and boosting the economy.

Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense. Low pay typically means high turnover. Raising the minimum wage pays off in lower employee turnover, reduced hiring and training costs, lower error rates, increased productivity and better customer service. Employees often make the difference between repeat customers or lost customers.

Raising the minimum wage is smart policy. It will reduce the strain on the safety net caused by wages that people can't live on. It will help level the playing field for businesses and strengthen the consumer spending businesses depend on to thrive.

ABOUT 1,000 SIGNERS AND COUNTING AS OF JULY 17, 2019

Holly Sklar, CEO, Business for a Fair Minimum Wage; Jen Landry, Owner, Steller Botanical Health, Gustavus, AK; Phillip Austin, Owner, DJ Cabinetry Tuscaloosa, AL;

Eddie Babies, Owner, Eddie B's Barber Shop Montgomery, AL; Varis Berry, Owner, New Beginning Barber & Style Montgomery, AL; Larry Bethune, Owner, Brenda's BBQ, Montgomery, AL; Joseph Bradley, Co-Owner, Sidekicks Sneaker Shop, Birmingham, AL; Tahera Broadnax, Owner, The Hair Day Birmingham, AL; David Brown, Owner, Manitou Supply, Birmingham, AL; Stephanie Brown, Owner, Hue Studio, Montgomery, AL; Dawn Cassizzi, Owner, Beacon Yoga, Birmingham, AL; Michael Crayton, Owner, MandE Suits, Montgomery, AL.

Robert Dean, Owner, Momma Goldberg's Deli, Homewood, AL; Adriane Dunson, Owner, Cora Bella LLC, Tuscaloosa, AL; Newman Evans, Owner, Newman's Classic Cuts, Birmingham, AL; Dan Hall, Owner, Queen City Cycles, Tuscaloosa, AL; Benita Hall, Owner, Shae breezy Beauty Bar, Montgomery, AL; Carla Hamilton, Owner, Four Corners Gallery, Birmingham, AL; James Harris, President, Harvest Midwest, Birmingham, AL; Tim Hicks, Owner, Veteran Cuts Barber Shop, Montgomery, AL; Ashraf Hijaz, Owner, Beauty & Beyond, Montgomery, AL; Justin Holt, Owner, Dotson's Burger Spot, Tuscaloosa, AL; Jose Izaguarre, Owner, TechniGO, Tuscaloosa, AL; Nate Johnson, Owner, Teamwork Barber Shop, Selma, AL; Walter L Johnson Sr., Owner, Village East Shoe Center, Montgomery, AL; Raymond Josof, Owner, Five Points Hotdogs, Birmingham, AL; Melissa Kendrick, CEO, Sojourns, Birmingham, AL; Ulu ybell Khorsanov, Owner, Prof Alterations, Tuscaloosa, AL; Dr. Jerry Kirby, Owner, Kirby Chiropractic Clinic, Montgomery, AL; LaKeitha Knox, Owner, The Head Doctor, Tuscaloosa, AL; Nicholas Lewis, Owner, Tha Cutting Zone, Tuscaloosa, AL; Brandon MacDonald, Owner, MacDonald Insurance Group, Birmingham, AL; Alexis Martin, Owner, Lex Couture Boutique, Selma, AL; Charli Matthews, CEO, Empowering Brands, Tuscaloosa, AL; Marisa Mitchell, Owner, Swaddle, Birmingham, AL; Kenya Mitchell, Owner, SKT Hair Salon, Selina, AL; Byong Hyon Moon, Owner, Tuny Custom T-shirts, Montgomery, AL.

Naboo A. Obeird, Owner, Makano's Kabob Express, Birmingham, AL; Derrick Paoletto, Owner, The Record Stop, Montgomery, AL; Salisha Parker, Owner, This & That LLC, Selma, AL; Kirsten Perry, Owner, KD Bridal & Prom, Selma, AL; Brittney Powell, Owner, Kay Couture, Montgomery, AL; Jim Reed, Owner, Reed's Book Store, Birmingham, AL; Katie Rengers, Director and Vicar, The Abbey, Birmingham, AL; Juan Rivera, Owner, Rivera's Barber Shop, Northport, AL; Jim Robertson, Owner, Robertson's Health Food Center, Northport, AL; Betty Rollins, Owner, Cloverdale Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Montgomery, AL; Chris Roycroft, Owner, Olive Tree, Tuscaloosa, AL; Vanessa Sanders, Owner, Kut N Go, Montgomery, AL; Craig Shaw, Owner, True Story Brewing Co., Birmingham, AL.

William Sheppard, Owner, Sheppard's Pet Supply, Birmingham, AL; Muhammad Sikander, Owner, Shoe Times, Montgomery, AL; Melissa Smith, Owner, Island Delight, Montgomery, AL; Jarrell Smith, Owner, Cutz & Budz, Montgomery, AL; Gregory Smitherman, Owner, Anatomy of Pi, Dora, AL; Justin Snipes, Owner, The Comic Strip, Tuscaloosa, AL; Casey Snipes, Owner, Trxi Vintage, Birmingham, AL; Mark Snyder, Owner, Mark's Joint Restaurant, Homewood, AL; Robby Spaeth, Owner, Capital City Tire & Auto Sales, Montgomery, AL; Curtis Starks, Co-owner, Train & Burn, Birmingham, AL; Cheri Stewart, Owner, Trim Tab Brewing, Birmingham, AL; Deon Trone, Owner, Deon's Style & Barber Shop, Tuscaloosa, AL; Deon Trone, Owner, Deon's Automotive, Tuscaloosa, AL; Teresa Vickrey,



Owner, Natural Healing, Montgomery, AL; Johnny Weatherspoon, Owner, Style Connection Barber Shop, Tuscaloosa, AL; LaTasha Wells, Owner, Salon Ambience, Tuscaloosa, AL; Christie White, Owner, Arcadia Salon, Birmingham, AL; Tim Williamson, Owner, Carter Drug, Selma, AL; Kandice Wright, Owner, Hair by Kandice, Tuscaloosa, AL; Bradley Wyatt, Owner, Copper Top, Tuscaloosa, AL; Blake Ralston, Owner, Ralston Agency, Fort Smith, AR; Steve Svendsen, Owner, Svendsen Agency, Rogers, AR; Daniel Aguilera, Owner, 480 Barber Shop, Chandler, AZ; Janice Brian, Owner, Alley Cats Haircutting Salon, Flagstaff, AZ; Malcolm Bates, Owner, Rogue Antiques Retro and Vintage, Flagstaff, AZ.

Paula Beltran, Owner, V.I. Alterations & Tailoring, Mesa, AZ; Rita Burnette, Owner, Make-U-Mobile, Mesa, AZ; Eric Cady, Co-Owner, Chupacabra Taproom, Mesa, AZ; Francisco Carlos, Owner, Cabinets by Design, Phoenix, AZ; Cartiye Carter, Owner, 24K Hair Spa, Phoenix, AZ; Jorge Castillo, Co-Owner, The Gaming Zone, Tempe, AZ; Alison Chandler, Co-Owner, Noble Beast Pet Market, Phoenix, AZ; Abel Chavez, Owner, Chavez Barber Shop, Tempe, AZ; Shang Syun Chiu, Owner, Dealer Electronics, Mesa, AZ; Natalie Clark, Owner, AZ Lash Lady, Chandler, AZ; Kimberly Clarke, Owner, Solstice Intimates, Tempe, AZ; Mark Cosmas, Owner, iRun, Phoenix, AZ.

Phil Costa, Owner, Unique Pianos, Phoenix, AZ; Lauren Danuser, Owner, Local Nomad, Phoenix, AZ; Daniel DeHoyos, Owner, Fritz's Barbershop, Mesa, AZ; Eileen Fisher, Founder, EILEEN FISHER, Scottsdale, AZ; Alfredo Flores, Owner, Watch & Jewelry Repair, Tempe, AZ; Farrell Friedland, President, Professional Alternatives of Arizona, LLC, Scottsdale, AZ; Justin Fultz, Owner, Let Us Floor You, Inc., Chandler, AZ; Gina Galaviz, Co-Owner, Flag T Factory, Flagstaff, AZ; Kristin Garcia, Owner, Purge Love Peace Rage Room, Chandler, AZ; Brenda Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Tim Hackman, Co-Owner, EmbroidMe, Phoenix, AZ; Billy Halton, Co-Owner, Casa Grande Dry Cleaning, Casa Grande, AZ.

Eddie Hantas, Owner, Hummus Express, Tempe, AZ; Lamar Harris, Co-Owner, Get Sassy Beauty Supply, Chandler, AZ; Nicholas Harron, Owner, 1UPGames, Mesa, AZ; Fahima Hassan, Owner, Khyber Halal, Phoenix, AZ; Dionne Hauke, Owner, Ziggie's Music, Phoenix, AZ; Jason Hemann, Owner, Kitchen AZ, Chandler, AZ; Gabrielle Hopkins, Owner, Food Diva AZ, Chandler, AZ; Gabrielle Hopkins, Owner, Wild Elk Den, Chandler, AZ; Jeannette Housner, Owner, Dion's Le Wig Shoppe, Scottsdale, AZ; Skip Jones, Owner, Caveman Printing & Apparel, Mesa, AZ; Brad Keeling, Owner, Maroney's Cleaners & Laundry, Phoenix, AZ.

Brad Keeling, President, OrganCARE, Phoenix, AZ; Danyelle Kimbell, Owner, Just In Time Hair Design, Chandler, AZ; Anthony Kyhn, Owner, Salon Red Arcadia, Phoenix, AZ; Adele LaVoie, Owner, French Method Salon, Phoenix, AZ; Cenobio Lopez, Owner, Nancy's Jewelry and Clothing, Chandler, AZ; Alison Lueders, CEO, Great Green Content, Phoenix, AZ; David Luna, Owner, Luna's Hair & Barbershop, Mesa, AZ; Treasure Mandley, Owner, HairADize, Chandler, AZ; Nancy J. McCulla, Owner, Simply Delicious Catering & Cafe Daily Fare, Flagstaff, AZ; Edmundo Meraz, Co-Owner, Republica Empanada, Mesa, AZ; Scott Miner D.C., Owner, OMNI Chiropractic, Tempe, AZ; Kim Natori, Founder, Let's Begin Again, Phoenix, AZ; Maria Ortiz, Owner, La Nortenita, Flagstaff, AZ; Heather Phalan, Owner, All Awards Studio, Flagstaff, AZ; Meir Pinhasov, Owner, Brooklyn's Barbershop LLC, Phoenix, AZ; Turney Postlewait, Owner, Biff's Bagels, Flagstaff, AZ; Urban Quintero, Co-Owner, Quintero Jewelry,

Chandler, AZ; Leo Ramirez, Co-Owner, Sa Morz Bakery, Casa Grande, AZ; Alma Reyes, Owner, Isela's Beauty Salon, Chandler, AZ; Dianne Ripplinger, Owner, Di's Hair & Nail Salon, Mesa, AZ; Laurel Roach, Owner, Trifit Wellness, Phoenix, AZ; John Rooney, Co-Owner, Adventures in Stained Glass, Casa Grande, AZ; Michael Roviello, Owner, Andromeda LLC, Phoenix, AZ; Sergio Sanchez, Owner, Crates Records, Phoenix, AZ; Michael Spangenberg, Owner, State Forty Eight, Chandler, AZ; Wayne B. Taylor, President, Taylor's Flooring, Mesa, AZ.

Bob Thomas, Owner, Bob's Tropical Inc., Phoenix, AZ; Chris Thomas, Owner, Universal Cuts & Design, Mesa, AZ; Paul Torok, CEO, PS YES LLC, Phoenix, AZ; Harold Torres, President, Hair 2 Day, Tempe, AZ; Pete Turner, Owner, Illegal Pete's Restaurants, Tucson, AZ; Alvaro Valentin, Owner, Fresh As Can "V", Chandler, AZ; Dan Vasquez, Owner, Dapper Dan's Barber Shop, Scottsdale, AZ; Dustin Venekamp, Owner, Altig-Venekamp Agency, Phoenix, AZ; Marie Verdugo, Owner, NuYou Life Center, Phoenix, AZ; Jamie Warner, Co-Owner, Yellow Jacket Comics LLC, Tempe, AZ; Brittany Weir, Owner, The Mad Bird, Phoenix, AZ; Paul Williams, Owner/Chef, Smoke Dem Bones BBQ, Phoenix, AZ.

Maury Williamson, Owner, The Country Clipper Barbershop, Chandler, AZ; Natasha Winnik, Owner, Originate Natural Building Materials Showroom, Tucson, AZ; Carolyn Young, Owner, West of the Moon Jewelry & Art, Flagstaff, AZ; Annette Zepeda, Co-Owner, Hair Deco, Phoenix, AZ; Feliciano Zizzo, Owner, Zizzo Tailoring, Scottsdale, AZ; Ruksana Azhu Valappil, Founder and CEO, NEEV, San Jose, CA; Brenda Balanda, Owner/Broker, Marin Sunshine Realty, Point Reyes Station, CA; Kae Bender, Founder, SocioEnergetics Foundation, Lancaster, CA; Neil Blomquist, Managing Director, Natural Habitats USA Inc., Richmond, CA; Neil Blomquist, Owner, Sustainable Solutions Consulting, Sebastopol, CA; David Bronner, CEO, Dr. Bronner's, Vista, CA; Rinaldo Brutoco, Founding President & CEO, World Business Academy, Santa Barbara, CA; Sattie Clark, Owner, Eleek Incorporated, Redwood Valley, CA; Eric Cohen, Owner, Justice Grace Vineyards, Sonoma, CA.

Thomas Cook, Attorney, Thomas Cook Intellectual Property Attorneys, Sausalito, CA; Fred Dew, Professional Engineer, Consultancy, Altadena, CA; Desi Dimitrova, Owner, Dimitrova Agency, San Dimas, CA; Jerome Dodson, President, Pamassus Investments, San Francisco, CA; Eric Edelson, CEO, Fireday Tile, San Francisco, CA; Mika Endo, Operations Manager, Mafia Bags, San Francisco, CA; Malia Everette, CEO, Altruvistas, Richmond, CA; Monica Farbiarz, CEO, Encanto Jewels, Grass Valley, CA; Deborah Frangquist, Owner, Chosen Futures, San Francisco, CA; Jim Frazin, Principal, Financial Planner, Communitas Financial Planning Inc., San Francisco, CA; Gary Gerber, CEO, Sun Light & Power, Berkeley, CA; Michael Hannigan, CEO, Community Benefit Corporation, Berkeley, CA.

Janie Hoffman, CEO & Founder, Mamma Chia, Carlsbad, CA; Kip Howard, Former CEO (retired), Navis LLC, Larkspur, CA; Ari Isaak, Owner, Evan GIS Consulting, San Diego, CA; Donald M. Johnson, Retired, Architect, Ventura, CA; Bakari Kafele, Owner, BioDiesel Hauling, San Pablo, CA; Steve Kaye, Owner, Steve Kaye Photo, Placentia, CA; Dr. Mha Atma S Khalsa, Owner, Khalsa Chiropractic, Los Angeles, CA; Martin Kruger, COO, Follow Your Heart (Earth Island), Chatsworth, CA; Carolyn McMaster, CEO, Thinkshift Communications, San Francisco, CA; Carolina Miranda, Founder and CEO, Cultivating Capital, Richmond, CA; Virginia Morrison, President, Collaboration Specialists, San Anselmo, CA; Allan Moskowitz, Owner, Transformative Wealth Management, El Cerrito, CA.

Erin Musgrave, Principal, EMC Strategies, Santa Cruz, CA; Mark Nelson, Owner, Renaissance Remodelers, San Anselmo, CA; S. Ostertag, Co-Owner, GLYDE America, Los Angeles, CA; Jennifer Piette, Founder, CEO, Narrative Food, Chatsworth, CA; Dylan Pollard, Partner, Pollard/Bailey, Beverly Hills, CA; Ben Rosenthal, Owner, Sustainable Computing, Berkeley, CA; Frank Scarpaci, President, VIANOVA, San Diego, CA; John Schmidt, Director, Quiksilver, Huntington Beach, CA; Leslie Sheridan, President, The Added Edge, Clearlake, CA; Michelle Stevens, Founder & CEO, The Refill Shoppe, Ventura, CA; Donald Taylor, President, Continental-Pacific Lumber, Gold River, CA; Alan Thiesen, Vice-President, Digital Research (retired), Nevada City, CA; Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO, Earth Friendly Products (Makers of ECOS), Cypress, CA; Esther Wagner, CFO, Excellent Packaging & Supply, Richmond, CA.

James Weil, CEO, Weil Aquatronics, Inc., Norwalk, CA; Robynne Winchester, Owner, Revelation in Fit, Oakland, CA; George Yenoki, Owner, Hackberry solutions, Monrovia, CA; Ben C. Alexander, Certified General Appraiser, Ben C. Alexander Appraisers, Byers, CO; Carlos Alvarez-Aranyos, Managing Partner, Boulder Transport, Boulder, CO; Bryan Birsic, CEO, Wunder Capital, Boulder, CO; Richard Correa, Owner, Richard Correa Agencies, Aurora, CO; Jenny Davies, Owner, Progressive Promotions, Denver, CO; Matthew Elliott, Partner, Super Humane, Denver, CO; Jeffrey Fierberg, CEO, Sora Digital, Denver, CO; Kathleen Furr, Owner, eXtraOrdinary Gift Company, Denver, CO; Toby Gadd, President, Nuance Chocolate, Fort Collins, CO; Kyle Garner, CEO, Organic India USA, Boulder, CO.

Chris Graves, Owner, Bardo Coffee House, Denver, CO; Sharon Hwang, Owner, The Wellness Center, Glendale, CO; Heather Jernberg, Partner, Boreas Group, Denver, CO; John Kuebler, Owner, Kilgore Books, Denver, CO; Jason Kuri, Founder, Ionzero LLC, Fort Collins, CO; Craig Lamberty, Owner, Conscious Coffees, Boulder, CO; Blake Manion, Founder, Soul Salve, Denver, CO; Stacey Marcellus, Co-Founder & CEO, Cappello's, Denver, CO; Alicia Marsicovetere, Owner, Renew Massage Studio LLC, Wheat Ridge, CO; Marilyn Megenity, Owner, Mercury Cafe, Denver, CO; Allison Parks, Owner/Managing Broker, Conscious Real Estate, Denver, CO; Chad Schubert, Director, Business Development, Pivot Energy, Denver, CO; Julie Tasche, Director of Community and Culture, Illegal Pete's, Inc., Denver, CO; Pete Turner, Founder/President, Illegal Pete's Restaurants, Denver, CO; Marie Venner, Owner and CEO, Venner Consulting, Lakewood, CO; Samuel Weaver, CEO, Cool Energy, Boulder, CO; Joshua Angelus, Owner, Self-employed, Waterbury, CT; Jonell Carr, Business Manager, Exquisite Contractors, Bridgeport, CT.

Nikki Colodny, Owner, Medical Practice, Guilford, CT; Jenifer Gorin, Founder, Impact Growth Partners, Westport, CT; Walter Greissle, Accountant, CPA, Stamford, CT; William Potvin, Owner, Hosmer Mountain Bottling Co., Willimantic, CT; Nancy Ruzow, Design Director, Ruzow Graphics Inc, Westport, CT; Margot Dorfman, CEO, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC; Mike Englert, President, Eighty2degrees Design Studio, Washington, DC; Jeffrey Hollender, CEO, American Sustainable Business Council, Washington, DC; Penny Jones-Napier, Owner & CEO, BBWoof Inc., Washington, DC; Michael Lastoria, Founder and CEO, &pizza, Washington, DC; Gloria Nauden, CMO, City First Bank, Washington,

DC; Thomas Oppel, Executive Vice President, American Sustainable Business Council, Washington, DC; Michael Peck, Founder, MAPA Group, Washington, DC; Gina Schaefer, Owner, Logan, Glover Park, Frager's, Tenleytown, other Ace Hardware stores, Washington, DC; Aaron Seyedian, Owner, Well-Paid Maids, Washington, DC; Andy Shallal, Owner, Busboys & Poets Restaurants, Washington, DC.

Fran Teplitz, Executive Co-Director for Business, Investing & Policy, Green America's Green Business Network, Washington, DC; Troy Toliver, Owner, We Buy Houses Nationwide USA, Washington, DC; Daniel Turner, President, TCG, Washington, DC; Dr. Kimberly Grimes, Co-Owner, Made by Hand International, South Bethany, DE; Gabriel Feldmann, Owner, The Feldmann Agency, Pensacola, FL; Matt Henderson, Owner, Henderson Agency, Orlando, FL; Orlando Heras, President, The Royal Gourmet Co., Hollywood, FL; Karen Joslin, Creatrix, Karen Joslin, Tallahassee, FL; Michelle Martinez, Owner, Williams-Martinez Agency, Miami Lakes, FL; KathySue McGuire, Principal, 3 Pillar Solutions, Jupiter, FL; MaryAnn Nelson, Owner, GQ Solutions, LLC, Jacksonville, FL; Joel Pollock, Co-Owner, Panther Coffee Roasters, Miami, FL; Natalie Albright, Owner, RSVP Prom and Pageant, Johns Creek, GA; Toulia Argentis, Owner, 2BWhole Gluten Free Bakery, Alpharetta, GA; Lisa Bobb, Owner, Squash Blossom Boutique, Decatur, GA; Kizuwanda Boyd, Owner, Dreams Beauty Experience, Atlanta, GA; Brian Brock, Managing Partner, Antwerp Diamonds, Roswell, GA; Douglas Burks, CEO, Burks Jewelers, Atlanta, GA; Rand Cabus, Owner, Mojo Vinyl Records, Roswell, GA.

Kal Cauthen, Owner, KC Groomer & Beauty Bar, Alpharetta, GA; Bruce Champeau, President and COO, Room & Board, Atlanta, GA; Randall Cook, Owner, Cook Agency, Buford, GA; Belon Durham, Owner, B Lashfull, Atlanta, GA; George Edward, Owner, The Hair Artists, Sandy Springs, GA; Rick Elibert, Owner/CEO, Positive Image Barber Shop, Chamblee, GA; Solera Foster, Owner, Solera's Salon, Sandy Springs, GA; Lola Foxx, Co-Owner, Foxx Original Jamaican Restaurant, Atlanta, GA; Phnewfula Frederiksen, Owner, Happy Mango, Atlanta, GA; Saba Gebrekiedan, Owner, Village Coffee Shop, Atlanta, GA; Brandy Hall, Founder, Shades of Green Permaculture Design, Decatur, GA; William Herman, Co-Owner, Raging Burrito, Decatur, GA; Warren Hudson, Owner, Decatur CD & Vinyl, Decatur, GA; Xavier Jarque, Owner, Xavier & Sons Auto Body & Paint, Alpharetta, GA; Ty Jenkins, Owner, Olive Branch Green Beauty, Decatur, GA; Kyle Johnson, Owner, Johnson Agency, Manetta, GA.

John Kang, Founder and General Manager, Salad Express, Roswell, GA; Sooil Kim, Owner, Donut Shack, Roswell, GA; Michael Knight, Owner, Kaboodle Home, Atlanta, GA; RuthE Levy, Owner, And Thou Shalt Read, Marietta, GA; RuthE Levy, Owner, Oy Toys, Roswell, GA; Godfrey Lewis, Owner, Avocado Vegan Cafe, Johns Creek, GA; Brandon Ley, Co-Owner, Georgia Beer Garden, Atlanta, GA; Brandon Ley, Co-Owner, Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta, GA; Celestino Loera, Owner, Mr. Tino's Ice Cream, Roswell, GA; Kathy Mai, Owner, K Hair Salon, Alpharetta, GA; Johnny Martinez, Co-Owner, Georgia Beer Garden, Atlanta, GA; Johnny Martinez, Co-Owner, Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta, GA; Juel McGhee, Owner, Closing Deals LLC, Atlanta, GA; Irene McGuire, Owner, Christian Print Shop, Johns Creek, GA; Michael Minga, Owner, Vivid Boutique Decatur, GA; Nataka Minix Owner, Star Taki Hair Lounge, Atlanta, GA.

Melissa Moore, Owner, Sq/Ft, Decatur, GA; Zalman Niktalov, Owner, North Point Uphol-

stery, Roswell, GA; Jeffrey Oparnica, Owner, Sabbath Brewing, Atlanta, GA; Cliff Owens-Leech, Please Select, COL Agency, Stone Mountain, GA; Joseph Peta, Owner, Feather Baby, Decatur, GA; LaKesia Phelps, Owner, Anna's BBQ, Atlanta, GA; Al Rauf, Owner, Al's European Barber, Alpharetta, GA; Al Raye, Owner, Clay's Sports Cafe, Sandy Springs, GA; Robert Rhein, Owner, GBG Market, Atlanta, GA; Robert Rhein, Owner, The Square Pub, Decatur, GA; Joann Schwartz, Owner, Kirkwood Feed & Seed Pet Supply, Atlanta, GA; Joann Schwartz, Owner, Kirkwood Bark & Lounge, Atlanta, GA; Jason Shadix, Owner, Found Co., Decatur, GA; Sana Shah, Owner, Sana Beauty Salon, Johns Creek, GA; Lucius Simon, Owner, 1st Class Barber & Beauty Salon, Atlanta, GA; John Thompson, Owner, Clothes Horse Men's Apparel & Gifts, Alpharetta, GA; Lisa Turner, Co-Owner, Trinity Mercantile & Design, Decatur, GA; Alex Vershkov, Owner, Alex Auto, Roswell, GA; Lan Vu, Owner, Classic Tailor & Alterations, Roswell, GA; Debbie Wallace, CEO, 360 Health Broadcasting Network, Atlanta, GA; Debbie Wallace, CEO, A Full Taste Restaurant, Decatur, GA; Jamison Weatherspoon, Owner, Weatherspoon Agencies, Duluth, GA; Darryl Pellegrini, Owner, Music business, Aiea, HI; Mo Ajram, Owner, Kamal's Inc, Cedar Rapids, IA; Anthony Albizo, Owner, Flash Screen Printing & Embroidery, West Des Moines, IA; Steve Anderson, Owner, A-Kleen Sweep, West Des Moines, IA.

Dina Bachman, Owner, Five Monkeys Inc, Des Moines, IA; John Bartlett, Owner, i Work & Play, West Des Moines, IA; Mike Blanchard, Owner, The CORE Cedar Falls, IA; Michael Glenn Breitbach, Owner, The Food Store, Dubuque, IA; Beth Brown, Owner, Beth's Custom Cakes, Dubuque, IA; Jesus Castro, Owner, La Michoacana Mexican Groceries, West Des Moines, IA; Martavious "Taye" Clayton, Owner, House of Fades, Des Moines, IA; Mel Dameron, Owner, TwinFidez Barber Shop, Urbandale, IA; Rebecca Davidson, Owner, Dash Coffee Roasters, Iowa City, IA; Rebecca Davidson, Owner, Dash Coffee Roasters, Cedar Rapids, IA; Charla Davidson, President, Zebras on 5th, West Des Moines, IA; Jodi Deery, Owner, Jennifer's on Main, Cedar Falls, IA; David Deibler, Co-Owner, Octopus, Cedar Falls, IA; Darrell Delaney, Owner, House of Fades, Des Moines, IA.

Mike Draper, Owner, Raygun LLC, Des Moines, IA; Mike Draper, Owner, Raygun LLC, Cedar Rapids, IA; Ann Eastman, Owner, Miss Wonderful Vintage, Cedar Falls, IA; Kathy and Herb Eckhouse, Owners, La Quercia, Norwalk, IA; Christopher Ellis, Co-Owner & Managing Partner, Quarter Barrel Arcade & Brewery, Cedar Rapids, IA; Hart Epstein, Owner, Bluebird Diner, Iowa City, IA; Josh Garrett, Owner, Jett & Monkey's, Des Moines, IA; Robert Guthart, Owner, Bob's Guitars, Cedar Falls, IA; Lisa Haley, Owner, Ice Cream U Scream, Dubuque, IA; Kevin Hedley, Owner, Uncle Ike's Music, Dubuque, IA; Catherine Hickey, Owner, Memory Lane Antiques Gifts Collectibles, West Des Moines, IA; Suman Hoque, Owner, HOQ Restaurant, Des Moines, IA; Jacob Jenkins, Owner, Big Acai, West Des Moines, IA.

Chrissy Jensen, Owner, Domestics, Des Moines, IA; Kevin Jones, Owner, Subsect Skateshop, Des Moines, IA; Amber Keppler, Owner, Look @ You, Des Moines, IA; Jorene King, Owner, Wines of Iowa, West Des Moines, IA; Jay Kozel, Owner, Back Country, Des Moines, IA; Mike Kunzler, Co-Owner/Art Director, Kunzler Studios, West Des Moines, IA; Robert Larson, Owner, Record Collector, Iowa City, IA; Carol Lauber, Owner, Caboose Stop Hobbies, Cedar Falls, IA; Julie Lewerke, Owner, Metro Market, West Des

Moines, IA; Joseph Logsdon, Owner, La Mie Bakery, Des Moines, IA; Nicole Lorenson, Owner, Preservation, Des Moines, IA; Keith Luter, Owner, Head 2 Toe Barbershop, Cedar Rapids, IA; Delaney Lynch, Owner, Bungalow, West Des Moines, IA; Allison Lyons, Owner, Rumors, Des Moines, IA; Adrian Maddox, Owner, Always Good Kutz LLC, Des Moines, IA; Ellen Martinson, Owner, Leona Ruby, Des Moines, IA; Ruth McDanel, Owner, Foxglove Chiropractic, West Des Moines, IA; Natalie Meester, Owner, Little Prairie Girl, Cedar Falls, IA.

Kristy Meyer, Co-Owner, Carol Ann Boutique & Body, Dubuque, IA; Nicole Myers, Owner, Polka Dots & Denim, Cedar Rapids, IA; Lacie Navin, Owner, Your CBD Store Valley Junction, West Des Moines, IA; Amber Neville, Owner, Willow & Stock, Iowa City, IA; Tony Nguyen, Owner, T-Tech, Des Moines, IA; Nate Niceswanger, Owner, ZZZ Records, Des Moines, IA; Michael Papich, President, Papich-Kuba Funeral Service, Cedar Rapids, IA; Joan Peiffer, Owner, Peiffer Paws Pet Grooming, Cedar Rapids, IA; Michael Price, Owner, Price Check Kicks, Cedar Falls, IA; Kathleen Rash, Owner and President, The Art Mission, Iowa City, IA; Tray Rochon, Owner, Blades Barbershop, Des Moines, IA; John Rohlf, Owner, Metro Records, Cedar Falls, IA; Sheila Sayre, Owner, She Home & Gift, Des Moines, IA; Barb Schilf, Owner, Mohair Pear, Cedar Falls, IA; Nate Sherwood, Owner, Eduskate, Cedar Rapids, IA; Bryan Smith, Owner, Blazing Saddle, Des Moines, IA; Andrew Snyder, Owner, Andy's Frame Shop, Des Moines, IA.

Kristin Solberg, Owner, Solberg's, Cedar Rapids, IA; Margeaux Spain, Owner, Margeaux Spain Wellness, Des Moines, IA; Glen Stillmunkes, Owner, Freddie's Popcorn Co., Dubuque, IA; Uzma Sultana, Owner, Gyro Hut, Cedar Rapids, IA; Anne Temple, Owner, Iowa Artisans Gallery, Iowa City, IA; Jennifer Veak, Owner, T-Shirt Graphix, Des Moines, IA; Victoria Veiock, Owner, Bing's, West Des Moines, IA; David Wetter, Owner, C & D Delivery LLC, Dubuque, IA; David Wetter, Owner, Tavern on the Main, Dubuque, IA; Dena Wright, Owner, Paula's Cafe, West Des Moines, IA; Stan Yoder, Owner, Stan's Barber Stylists, Iowa City, IA; ReShonda Young, Founder, Popcorn Heaven, Waterloo, IA; David Zaghloul, Owner/Chef, Chez Grace, Coralville, IA; Amanda Zeitner, Owner, Snowwhite Botanicals, Des Moines, IA; Scot McGavin, Co-Owner, Puentes Language Programs, Boise, ID; Bill Parks, President and Founder, NRS, Moscow, ID.

Kathy Stearns, Owner, Arc Advisers, Boise, ID; Ellen Anderson, President, Rally Insurance Group, Volo, IL; Chuck Blumenthal, Owner, Bean Products, Inc., Chicago, IL; David Borris, Owner and President, Hel's Kitchen Catering, Northbrook, IL; Nancy Brandt, Retired, Investor, Chicago, IL; James Brandt, Board Member, Ringspann Corp., Franklin Park, IL; Bruce Champeau, President and COO, Room & Board, Oak Brook, IL; Joyce Coffee, President, Climate Resilience Consulting, Chicago, IL; James Coleman, President, The Metro Group, Chicago, IL; Elizabeth Colon, President, Metaphrasis Language & Cultural Solutions, Chicago, IL; Mike Draper, Owner, Raygun LLC, Chicago, IL; Emily Farr, Owner, Farr & Farr, LLC, Chicago, IL.

Tim Frick, CEO, Mightybytes, Chicago, IL; Pamela Gronemeyer, M.D., Owner, SEMC Pathology, Highland, IL; Kate Jakubas, Founder, Meliora Cleaning Products, Chicago, IL; Michelle Knox, Founder/President, WindSolarUSA, Springfield, IL; Kevin Lampe, Co-Founder & Executive Vice President, Kurth Lampe Worldwide, Chicago, IL; Michael Londo, President, Just in Time Direction, Glen Ellyn, IL; Emily Lonigro, CEO, LimeRed, Chicago, IL; Thomas MacRoy,

Owner, DuPage Psychological Associates, Naperville, IL; Sarah McGuire, Owner, Sarah McGuire Studio, Chicago, IL; Bob Olson, President and CEO, Olson Agencies, Lombard, IL; Scott Pfeiffer, Managing Partner, Threshold Acoustics, Downers Grove, IL; Michelle Sheldon, President, Eco Promotional Products, Vernon Hills, IL; Dimitri Syrkin-Nikolau, Owner, Dimo's Pizza, Chicago, IL.

Lauren Venell, Co-founder & CXO, Joone Creative, Inc., Chicago, IL; Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO, Earth Friendly Products (Makers of ECOS), Addison, IL; Kelly Weinberger, Founder and Co-Owner, WorldFinds, Westmont, IL; James Cunningham, Owner, James Cunningham Agency, Indianapolis, IN; Gregg Keesling, President, RecycleForce, Indianapolis, IN; Deborah Pierce, Managing Partner, GoodMustGrow, Brownsburg, IN; Becky Reimbold, Owner, Just Goods, South Bend, IN; Yadrada Alvarez, Owner, Yady Beauty Salon, Mission, KS; Jon Amyx, Owner, Downtown Barber, Lawrence, KS; Carl Applequist, Owner, Carl's Salon, Overland Park, KS; Rashida Bonds, Owner, Beautiful Hair Parlor, Mission, KS; Brenda Clarke, Owner, The Hair House, Shawnee, KS; Mike Cole, Owner, The General Store, Overland Park, KS; Molly Crook, Owner, Essential Goods, Lawrence, KS; Kerry Doan, Owner, Bombshell Boutique, Mission, KS.

Ken Fleming, Owner, Ken's Swap-d-Shop, Olathe, KS; Marlon Ford, Owner, For's Barber Shop, Kansas City, KS; Kathy Gates, Owner, The Running Well Store, Mission, KS; Patricia H. Goodfriend, Owner, Teal Lotus, Overland Park, KS; Dave Grigsby, Owner, Parkwood Barber Shop, Kansas City, KS; Carmen Hinojos, Manager, Las Gorditas Mexican Restaurant, Kansas City, KS; Dustin Hothan, Owner, CBD of Lawrence, Lawrence, KS; Angelynn Howell, Owner, Anna's BLD Bistro, Kansas City, KS; Lewis Hurtt, Owner, Shoe Master, Fairway, KS; Ronell Jones, Owner, JC Barbershop; Shawnee, KS; Denise Kirk, Owner, Aunt Jean's, Shawnee, KS; Lane Lambert, Owner, 3 Wishes—Books, Art, Music, Merriam, KS; Sam Lloyd, Co-owner, Harbor Leaf Tea Company, Lawrence, KS.

Cole Maggart, Owner, Brothers Music, Mission, KS; Nicole Manriquez, Owner, Striped Cow, Lawrence, KS; Joey Mendez, Co-Owner, ULAH, Westwood, KS; Haile Michaels, Owner, Elsa's Ethiopian, Overland Park, KS; Marilyn O'Hearne, Owner, Marilyn Oh Executive & Team Coaching, Leawood, KS; William O'Rourke, Owner, Orange Cat Records, Lawrence, KS; Tracy Ochester, Owner, Ochester Psychological Services, LLC, Leawood, KS; Keyla Osuna, Manager, Osuna Bakery, Kansas City, KS; Dan Phillips, Owner, Vinyl Renaissance, Overland Park, KS; Ron Phillips, Shop Supervisor, Klemp Electric, Kansas City, KS; Darby Pool, Owner, Bikes for the Likes of Us, Olathe, KS; Jenny Pugh, Owner, Lulu's Boutique, Mission, KS; Jorge Ramos, Owner, Ramos Upholstery, Kansas City, KS; Daisy Rodriguez, Owner, Oregano & Thyme Market, Mission, KS; Amrik Sandhu, Manager, Black's Liquor, Kansas City, KS; Dave Seal, Owner, Framewoods, Lawrence, KS; Ben Stallings, Co-Owner, Interdependent Web, Emporia, KS.

Sherry Sullivan, Owner, Brian's Bakery, Mission, KS; Sara Thompson, President, Ceramic Cafe, Overland Park, KS; Tara Vandervalk, Owner, Radiance: Beautiful Skin, Overland Park, KS; Teresa Hendricks, Owner, Lucia's World Emporium, Lexington, KY; Camille Moran, Owner, Caramor Industries; 4 Seasons Christmas Tree and Plant Farm, Natchitoches, LA; Angela O'Byrne, Owner, Perez APC, New Orleans, LA; Mallory Whitfield, Owner, Malaprop LLC, New Orleans,

LA; Janet Axelrod, Owner, Wealth Matters, Cambridge, MA; Robert Baker, President, Key Polymer Corp., Lawrence, MA; Ann Baker, Owner, On Camera Commercial Coaching, Wayland, MA; Jessie Banhazl, CEO & Founder, Green City Growers, Somerville, MA; Phil Bannatyne, Owner, Cambridge Brewing Company, Cambridge, MA; Ted Barber, Founder, Prosperity Candle, Easthampton, MA; Jeff Barry, President, Boston Organics, Charlestown, MA; Sam Barstow, President & COO, Forsake, Boston, MA; Paul Benoit, Co-Owner, Box Save, Arlington, MA; Andrew Bonfiglio, Co-Founder, Emzingo, Somerville, MA.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, take it from the words of Rebecca Hamilton, CEO of Badger Balm, a small cosmetic company in New Hampshire. She said: "Paying a living wage is a core part of our culture and has helped us hire and retain excellent staff even in a time when other businesses have struggled."

We have heard businesses that started out small, such as the popular restaurant & pizza, that attribute their fast-growing success to their practice of paying fair wages while maintaining competitive prices.

Small companies make up 99 percent of U.S. employers, and nearly 70 percent of our economic activity comes from consumer spending.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, by raising the minimum wage, we can help put money back into consumers' pockets, injecting new life into our Main Street and our economy.

I ask everyone to support this important bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues from Georgia said, the Democrats want to make the American people think that they, as agents of the Federal Government, are giving them something by raising this minimum wage. That is not true.

Small businesses, families, workers, and the economy at large will all suffer debilitating loss if this bill is passed. Forcing our Nation's job creators to raise the minimum wage arbitrarily around the country by 107 percent will hurt the very people this ill-advised legislation is alleged to help.

The case studies from States and localities with large minimum wage hikes are clear and have shown that workers and employers are punished by these risky schemes.

Apparently, House Democrats have missed the fact that wages are already on the rise. With unemployment near a 50-year low, the competition for employees is driving wages up.

Instead of stifling our booming economy by forcing employers to implement a crippling, mandated wage hike, we should advance legislation that empowers communities, creates opportunities, and opens doors for workers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Since Franklin Roosevelt, the Federal Government has been increasing the Federal wage.

Don't let them get away with this hogwash about what we do and what we don't do here.

Wages for the top 1 percent have grown 150 percent since 1979.

Wages for middle-class families and working families have stagnated. Their wages do not keep up with the skyrocketing costs of healthcare, prescription drugs, childcare, housing, and a college education.

This is the single biggest economic challenge of our time. So, today, full-time, year-round work at the Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 leaves a family of three below the Federal poverty line. It is unacceptable, because working people have more than earned a raise.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, if the minimum wage increased equal to the increases in workers' productivity, it would be more than \$20 an hour.

Congress needs to make this right. Clearly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not respect the work of 34 million Americans. They don't respect the dignity of the work that these folks do.

It is our job. Let us pass the Raise the Minimum Wage Act. Working people are doing their jobs. Let us do ours.

I include in the RECORD a letter from the AFT, the American Federation of Teachers.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,

Washington, DC, July 17, 2019.

Hon. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. SCOTT: On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I thank you for introducing the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582). By raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 per hour by 2024, H.R. 582 would empower millions of struggling Americans to make ends meet and support their families.

The federal minimum wage was last raised to \$7.25 per hour in 2009, and, over the past decade, the cost of living has increased at a pace that significantly exceeds the average earnings of a minimum wage worker. Raising the wage is a matter of economic and social justice because a \$15 minimum wage would lift millions out of poverty, help close the racial and gender wage gaps, and help reverse decades of growing pay inequality.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would give more than 1 in 3 working women a raise, including 43 percent of African American working women, 38 percent of working Latinas, 32 percent of white working women, and 20 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander working women.

Of particular note for the AFT, our research tells us that one-fifth of educators and one-fourth of healthcare workers would get a raise under H.R. 582—including but not limited to preschool teachers, who on average earn \$13.84 per hour; substitute teachers,

who average \$13.47 per hour; child care workers, who earn an average of \$10.18 per hour; and home healthcare workers, who on average receive \$10.87 per hour. With higher wages, more Americans would be better able to afford food, clothing, housing and other necessities, which, in turn, would support local businesses and economic growth.

Too many hardworking families in the United States are being forced to depend on poverty-level wages. Congress can help strengthen our economy and lift families out of poverty by raising the federal minimum wage.

Thank you for your introduction of H.R. 582.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,  
President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding and for his tireless, incredible, and brilliant leadership.

I include in the RECORD a letter from The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights expressing their strong support for H.R. 582.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,  
Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

VOTE RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT THE RAISE  
THE WAGE ACT OF 2019

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we write to express our strong support for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R. 582). This important legislation would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025, index it to median federal wages, and ensure that all tipped workers, working people with disabilities, and young people get paid at least the full minimum wage. Passage of the Raise the Wage Act is a top legislative priority of our coalition. We urge you to vote YES on final passage of a clean bill and NO on any Motion to Recommit (MTR) in connection with this legislation. The Leadership Conference will score both of these votes in our voting record for the 116th Congress.

At the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, one of the founders of The Leadership Conference, Black labor leader A. Philip Randolph, noted, "Nor is the goal of our civil rights revolution merely the passage of civil rights legislation. Yes, we want all public accommodations open to all citizens, but those accommodations will mean little to those who cannot afford to use them."

This week, the House of Representatives has the opportunity to champion working people by passing the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. In February 2019, I testified at a hearing held by the U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor entitled "Gradually Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15: Good for Workers, Good for Businesses, and Good for the Economy." What I said then remains true today: low-wage working people are overdue for a raise. For decades, wages for most people in America have stagnated while productivity has increased. This has been particularly true for low-wage earners. Congress has not raised the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an

hour since 2007. And the tipped minimum wage has been stuck at \$2.13 an hour since 1991.

Raising the federal minimum wage is a racial and gender justice issue. The National Women's Law Center has noted that women make up nearly two-thirds of those earning the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Women of color are more likely than any other group to be paid the lowest wages.

Paying tipped workers the full minimum wage would rectify longstanding injustices and ensure that no one works for pennies in America. The subminimum wage that tipped workers receive is rooted in the history of slavery. The practice of tipping proliferated in the United States after the Civil War when the restaurant and hospitality industry, exemplified by the Pullman Company, "hired" newly freed slaves without paying them base wages. The effect was to create a permanent servant class, for whom the responsibility of paying a wage was shifted from employers to customers. Today, poverty rates for people who work for tips are more than twice as high as rates for working people overall—with female tipped workers, especially women of color, at a particular disadvantage. According to the 2012-2015 ACS data on gender and race for tipped occupations, of the almost 6 million tipped working people in our country, 66 percent are women. And women of color are disproportionately represented in the tipped workforce.

As with the tipped minimum wage, the subminimum wage under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act that allows people with disabilities working in segregated settings to be paid less than the minimum wage leaves this community vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. The National Disability Rights Network believes that "sheltered workshops have replaced institutions in many states as the new warehousing system and are the new favored locations where people with disabilities are sent to occupy their days." Enacted in 1938, Section 14(c) reflects what should be a bygone era of how we as a nation treat people with disabilities. The time has come for federal action to support and fully integrate people with disabilities into the workplace.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently released a report looking at the potential effects of increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour incrementally through 2025 and found that the benefits strongly outweigh its costs. The CBO report predicted that this gradual increase would decrease the number of individuals living in poverty by 1.3 million people and disproportionately increase the incomes of families that are low-income.

The civil rights community has long supported a universal floor for wages that would provide a base line for all people in our country. Indeed, one of the core demands of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was for "[a] national minimum wage that will give all Americans a decent standard of living." Cost of living data show that in all 50 states today a single working person without children currently needs or will soon need a wage of at least \$15 per hour to cover basic living costs. Working people with children and those in high-cost states will need even more.

Fair wages are essential for working people to cover basic expenses like housing, food, transportation, childcare, health care, and other necessities. We urge you to vote for clean passage of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019—and against any MTR that is offered—to address the economic security concerns of working families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

VANITA GUPTA,  
President and CEO.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, the Raise the Wage Act. This critical bill would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and give 33 million workers a raise, including 16 million people of color who are disproportionately paid poverty wages.

Once more, it would lift 1.3 million Americans out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is long overdue. The current minimum wage of \$7.25 is a poverty wage, plain and simple.

I, too, am a former business owner with hundreds of employees who saw firsthand how productivity was achieved and increased by paying good wages.

These poverty wages must end for everyone. Homelessness is rising. People can't afford to pay their rent. They are living on the edge.

No one in the richest nation on Earth should be struggling like this, working two and three jobs just to survive.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to have joined my union brothers and sisters, along with the attorney general of Minnesota, former co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, Keith Ellison, and my union brothers and sisters on picket lines, in rallies, and marches in the fight for \$15. I want to thank them for their bold and committed leadership.

When we fight, we win.

I urge a "yes" vote on raising the wage to \$15 an hour.

I thank Chairman SCOTT, again, for his leadership.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire again as to the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 4¾ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the vice chair on the Joint Economic Committee.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Raise the Wage Act, which will raise the Federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025.

I include in the RECORD a letter signed by many youth organizations in support of this legislation.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: The undersigned organizations are writing to express our support for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, which would incrementally increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 over the next 6 years. Beyond raising the wage, the bill's important provisions include phasing out the subminimum wages for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth. As organizations committed to the wellbeing and economic security of young people, we are united in our goal of ensuring all youth are paid a livable wage to provide for themselves and their families.

Adults and youth both struggle to make ends meet on today's minimum wage. Currently, the poverty rate for youth (ages 18 to

24) is 16.1 percent, which is higher than the national rate of 12.3 percent. Existing law allows employers to pay youth under age 20 a subminimum wage of \$4.25 for the first 90 days of their employment. While rarely used, this subminimum wage prohibits youth from being active consumers in their communities, saving money, or achieving true economic stability. The Raise the Wage Act will benefit millions of low-wage workers by increasing their income to a wage that would allow them to meet their financial needs.

Youth, like many others in this country, use their wages to support themselves and their families. For example, young people use their summer jobs earnings to purchase school supplies and assist family with buying food and contributing to college costs. Some use their wages to support their own children, pay rent, and buy other basic necessities. According to the Census Bureau, approximately 27 percent of young adults with children live in poverty. Low wages make it increasingly difficult for these parents to appropriately care for their children.

Congress has not raised the minimum wage in over a decade. Studies show that one in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that leave them in poverty, even when working full time and year-round. The economy is leaving too many people behind—including youth and young adults. Because poverty is structural and caused by systems and policies—like discrimination, segregation, and low-quality jobs—policymakers have an important role in addressing it.

Congress must act to raise the wage because it's the equitable thing to do for workers and it's a financial imperative—providing individuals with the means to meet their basic financial needs. By raising the minimum wage and eliminating the subminimum wage for youth, Congress would support young people in becoming more economically secure to help provide for their families and themselves. We urge Congress to pass the Raise the Wage Act for the good of our country's economy and the youth who will play a critical role now and in our future.

Sincerely,

National Organizations: America's Promise Alliance; Center for Law and Social Policy; Heartland Alliance; Kaleidoscope Pathways; Opportunity Youth United; Project Z; SparkAction; Strive International; YouthBuild USA.

State and Local: Arizona: Opportunities for Youth; California: KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance); Georgia: Georgia Shift; Louisiana: Dreams are Weapons; Maryland: Baltimore Algebra Project; New York: City of Albany, Department of Recreation; Pennsylvania: E5, LLC.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 for the past 10 years. During that time, the cost of housing, food, childcare, education, all of this has risen higher and higher, but the minimum wage has been stuck.

This week, the Joint Economic Committee, where I serve as vice chair, released a report on the Federal minimum wage, and it begins with this chart. It shows that, in 1968, a full-time worker working year-round at minimum wage would take home roughly \$21,000 a year.

Now, 15 years later, a worker working full-time making minimum wage earns only \$15,000 a year in the same dollars, a loss of over \$6,000 in real 2018 dollars. This is a 30 percent drop.

A full-time worker earning \$7.25 minimum wage earns roughly \$1,250 per

month. That is not enough to cover even half of the monthly expenses of an average family, which total roughly \$3,000. It is not enough to live on, let alone, to support a family.

Now, some critics say the minimum wage is earned mostly by teenagers, but that is wrong. More than half of those working at or below the minimum wage are above 25 years of age.

It ignores the fact that the typical minimum wage worker earns half of their family's income. As a result, boosting the wage will support millions of children and families across our Nation.

Workers with more money in their pockets will spend it, stimulating the economy.

It is important to end the gender gap, because half the people working for minimum wage are women.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I just want to applaud the gentleman from Virginia, BOBBY SCOTT, for his selfless and bold work. He faced many obstacles.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentlewoman such time as she may consume.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge a very strong vote on this to support the minimum wage and to get millions of workers the raise they so justly deserve. Over 33 million Americans deserve this raise. This chart shows it all.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I compliment my colleague on his sense of humor, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a leader of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership. This is for the children.

Can you believe that this is a minimum wage increase spanning over 6 years, and you hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. This will allow small businesses to go in gradually and then provide all of these dollars into the economy.

This is for the children.

I just heard from a mother who works for McDonald's who cannot provide for her children and is on food stamps.

Mr. Speaker, 41.3 percent of those in my district will benefit in Texas in the 18th Congressional District. This will help the gender gap. But more importantly, it will benefit 19 million children whose parents will get a raise.

It will increase worker productivity by incentivizing people to work harder; reduce the gender gap, as women make up a disproportionate share of minimum wage workers; and reduce the rate at which renters default on their leases by giving families more money to spend on their household budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD statistics relating to the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

#### TEXAS 18TH DISTRICT

Share of workers affected: 41.3%  
Total workers affected: 155,800  
Total wage increase for all affected workers (thousands, 2018\$): \$638,584  
Change in avg. annual earnings among all \$4,100 year-round affected workers (2018\$): \$4,100  
Percent change in avg. annual earnings among all year-round affected workers: 18.6%  
Ages 16 to 24—Total workers affected: 41,400  
Ages 16 to 24—Share affected: 81.8%  
Ages 25 to 39—Total workers affected: 63,900  
Ages 25 to 39—Share affected: 41.0%  
Ages 40 to 54—Total workers affected: 33,100  
Ages 40 to 54—Share affected: 29.4%  
Ages 55 or older—Total workers affected: 17,400  
Ages 55 or older—Share affected: 29.8%  
Men—Total workers affected: 72,000  
Men—Share affected: 35.1%  
Women—Total workers affected: 83,900  
Women—Share affected: 48.5%  
Asian or other—Total workers affected: 7,600  
Asian or other—Share affected: 29.2%  
Black—Total workers affected: 49,100  
Black—Share affected: 40.8  
White—Total workers affected: 10,000  
White—Share affected: 15.7%  
Hispanic—Total workers affected: 89,100  
Hispanic—Share affected: 53.2%

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, apartment complexes, local stores, local clothing stores, churches, and nonprofits benefit from the generosity of individuals who now have a decent wage.

I am standing with working people and unions. I am standing with the American people and 41.3 percent of my district.

Let us raise the minimum wage. That is the right thing to do. It is for our children.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 582, the "Raise the Wage Act."

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives will take another step in making good on its commitment to working families and individuals to put their economic interests and concerns first and attach the highest priority to making the real economy work for ordinary Americans who work hard, play by the rules, and are struggling to get by through no fault of their own.

We Democrats promised to chart a new direction for America if the voters entrusted us with the majority.

They did and with our votes today in support of H.R. 582, we are making good on our promise.

Mr. Speaker, before I discuss the importance of this bill in detail, I wish to commend Chairman SCOTT, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Majority Whip CLYBURN, and the rest of the Democratic leadership, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, which is led so ably by Congressman BASS.

Because of their resolve and visionary leadership, more than 27 million workers, and as many as 34 million, will soon receive a long overdue raise.



What a difference an election makes.

H.R. 582 helps the most deserving American families by raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 over six years, and indexing increases after that to median wage growth.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that the value of the current minimum wage represents a 51-year low?

Had the minimum wage kept pace with inflation, it would be \$10.15 today, nearly \$3 more per hour than it is currently.

If the wages of that worker had kept up with the pace of productivity growth, the minimum wage would be \$19.33, over \$40,000 per year.

It is scandalous, Mr. Speaker, that a person can work full-time, 40 hours per week, for 52 weeks, earning the minimum wage and would gross just \$15,000, which is \$6,100 below the \$25,100 needed to lift a family of three out of poverty.

In 2018, the average CEO was paid 1,140 times the amount earned yearly by a minimum wage worker.

Mr. Speaker, since 2009 the cost of college tuition has risen more than 40 percent and health insurance premiums have skyrocketed by 41 percent.

But during that time, the minimum wage has not increased one cent.

That is unconscionable and downright un-American.

H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, will change this sorry state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever America's hard-working families are feeling squeezed, living paycheck to paycheck.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that prices at the pump, skyrocketing health care costs and the rising cost of college in the face of falling or flat wages, are squeezing hard-working Texans in my Houston-based Congressional District as they struggle to make ends meet.

That is why I support increasing the minimum wage.

For Texas workers the basic cost of living is rising; it is only fair that the pay for hard-working Texans does too.

Mr. Speaker, 29 states and the District of Columbia have increased their minimum wage above the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour, but regrettably my home state of Texas is not one of them.

For approximately 4.7 million Texans and nearly 155,800 hardworking persons in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, passage of the Raise the Wage Act would bring immediate, tangible, and substantial economic benefits.

Increasing the minimum wage would give these families a much needed additional \$4,100 a year to meet critical needs such as rent, health care, food and child care.

The increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour over the next six years will not allow workers to live as large as the typical CEO, who now earns 1,140 times more than a minimum wage worker, but at least it will allow these low-wage workers to make a little better life for themselves and their families.

Raising the minimum wage will benefit working families:

1. Benefit 19 million children whose parents will get a raise;
2. Increase worker productivity by incentivizing people to work harder;
3. Reduce the gender wage gap, as women make up a disproportionate share of minimum wage workers; and

4. Reduce the rate at which renters default on their leases by giving families more money to spend on their household budgets.

Increasing the minimum wage will also provide a boost to the economy, since lower wage workers are more likely than other income groups to spend extra earnings immediately and researchers estimate that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would increase sales by around \$2 billion each year.

Mr. Speaker, the earnings of minimum wage workers are crucial to their families' well-being since the average minimum wage worker brings home more than half (51.9 percent) of his or her family's weekly earnings.

Raising the minimum wage helps women and workers of color.

More than 49,000, or 41 percent, of African American workers and 89,100, or 53.2 percent of Hispanic workers in my congressional district would get a raise under the Raise the Wage Act.

The Raise the Wage Act would substantially increase the purchasing power of 83,900, or 48.5 percent, of low-wage women workers in my district.

Since women make up nearly two-thirds of all minimum wage workers, the Raise the Wage Act would provide the greatest benefit to workers of color and women.

Single mothers would benefit disproportionately from an increase—single mothers are 10.4 percent of workers affected by an increase, but they make up only 5.3 percent of the overall workforce.

Approximately 1.8 million Texas parents with children under 18 would benefit.

Contrary to popular myths and urban legends, adults make up the largest share of workers (80 percent) who would benefit from a minimum wage increase:

More than half (54 percent) of workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase work full time and another third (34.5 percent) work between 20 and 34 hours per week.

Minimum wage increases benefit disadvantaged workers, and women are the largest group of beneficiaries:

1. More than 23 million (66 percent) of workers who would benefit from an increase to \$15.00 are women.

2. Approximately 11.2 million (28 percent) of workers who would benefit from an increase to \$15.00 are the parents of 14.4 million children, and of these, 5.4 million (48 percent) are single parents. In my District in Texas, 41.3 percent of the workers would benefit.

A disproportionate share of persons of color would benefit from a minimum wage increase:

1. African Americans represent 11.1 percent of the total workforce but are 15.3 percent of workers affected by an increase.

2. Similarly, 13.4 percent of the total workforce is Hispanic, but Hispanics are 19.7 percent of workers affected by an increase.

The benefits of an increase minimum wage disproportionately help those working households at the bottom of the income scale.

Although households in the bottom 20 percent received only 5.1 percent of national income, 38.1 percent of the benefits of a minimum wage increase to \$15.00 would go to these workers.

Thirty-six percent of such workers actually contribute 100 percent of their family's earnings.

A minimum wage increase would help reverse the trend of declining real wages for low-wage workers.

Between 2009 and 2018, the minimum wage lost 29 percent of its real value.

In contrast, between 1989 and 1997, the year it was raised to \$5.15, the minimum wage was raised four times and recovered about one-third of the value it lost in the 1980s.

Income inequality has been increasing, in part, because of the declining real value of the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, the opponents of the minimum wage often claim that increasing the wage will cost jobs and harm the economy.

Of course, Mr. Speaker there is no credible to support such claims.

The truth is that following the most recent increase in the minimum wage in 2009, and the rescue of the economy by President Barack Obama after the Great Recession, the country went on to enjoy one the more sustained period of economic prosperity in history.

Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that the best performing small businesses are located in states with the highest minimum wages.

The job growth for small businesses in states with a minimum wage higher than the federal level was 9.4 percent compared to a 6.6 percent growth in states where the federal level prevailed.

So much for the discredited notion that raising the minimum wage harms the economy; it does not.

But raising the minimum wage helps the economy by increasing the purchasing power of those who most need the money, which is far more than can be said of the Republicans' devotion to cutting taxes for billionaires and multimillionaires.

Mr. Speaker, Americans overwhelmingly side with progressive principles of rewarding hard work with a living wage.

A post-election Hill-Harris poll found that 82 percent of Americans favored the hourly minimum wage and a clear majority, 55 percent, favored increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00, while only 14 percent favored keeping in place the current \$7.25 wage rate.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we gave the Americans we represent a long-over due pay raise by increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 over six years and indexing future increases to the growth in median wages so that a full-time worker making the minimum wage can afford the basic essentials, which is not the case today anywhere in America.

I urge all members to support this necessary and timely legislation.

Vote aye on H.R. 582, the "Raise the Wage Act."

□ 1045

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I do take offense at anyone who characterizes Republicans as not caring about children, not caring about women, not caring about people of color, and not caring about people in poverty. We care for all people, too, Mr. Speaker, and I want to make that very clear. We will disagree philosophically, but we care about people, and we love our fellow Americans.

Democrats continue to point to figures of potential wage increases in our congressional districts, but not once have they acknowledged that CBO estimates that as many as three jobs could



be lost for every one person pulled out of poverty.

So will the Democrats who vote for this bill come to our congressional districts and answer for the jobs lost?

Will they look at the women and young people and those without a high school degree who will face the brunt of the job losses from this bill in our congressional districts?

The harm inflicted by this bill far outweighs the benefits. We should not inflict that pain on our constituents just to satisfy a far left, socialist political promise. The economy is growing, wages are rising, and opportunities are increasing. We should not dampen this progress with any kind of policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this costly, job-killing bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the following organizations in support of the Raise the Wage Act: the National Employment Law Project, cosigned by 500 other organizations, AFSCME, the National Women's Law Center, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, National Urban League, Disability Coalition, healthcare groups, Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs, First Focus Campaign for Children, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Oxfam, Americans for Democratic Action, National Employment Lawyers Association, and a recent article in Politico by Reverend William Barber.

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT,

July 15, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National Employment Law Project (NELP), a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of workers in low-wage jobs, enthusiastically supports the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. We urge you to vote Yes on the bill and No on any Motion to Recommit when the measure comes before the House later this week.

Last month, our nation marked a shameful milestone when the longest period passed without an increase since the 1938 enactment of the minimum wage. Nearly ten years have passed since the last increase to \$7.25 on July 24, 2009. The cost of wage stagnation for workers making wages at or near the federal minimum wage is inexcusable in a country with the collective wealth we enjoy and with an economy that is booming for those who already live comfortable lives.

The Raise the Wage Act will gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025, gradually eliminate the subminimum wages for tipped, disabled and youth workers, and eventually index the minimum wage so that it rises as all other wages rise.

If signed into law, this Act will not only dramatically decrease poverty and income inequality. By phasing out subminimum wages and restoring the value of the federal minimum wage, this Act will also help address the systemically lower wages disproportionately affecting people of color, women and disabled workers as a result of the structural inequities baked into our current federal minimum wage policy.

Though opponents of raising the minimum wage will claim that it will result in job loss, these prophecies of doom have no basis in

fact. Just two weeks ago, a detailed and rigorous study of minimum wage increases since 2005, including the first increases that went to \$15, demonstrated that there are no discernable negative effects on employment or hours worked. Rather, it found that minimum wage increases lead to substantial declines in household and child poverty. Further studies show that raising the minimum wage also leads to a reduction in suicides, a decrease in criminal recidivism, improved maternal and child health, increased consumer spending, increased worker productivity, lower turnover in jobs, and rise in employment of older workers.

It's no wonder that the minimum wage enjoys such broad popular support, with polling showing 65% for a \$15 federal minimum wage even in battleground Congressional districts.

This bill is a crucial step forward in the move to raise wages, fight income inequality, reduce poverty, and eradicate at least some measure of racial, gender and disability discrimination that is inherent in our federal minimum wage policy. It is also an important step in making sure that working people achieve a more equitable share of the rewards of their labor.

We hope that you will stand with the nearly 35 million workers who will receive a raise if the Raise the Wage Act is passed and vote Yes on the bill and No on any Motion to Recommit that is offered.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE L. OWENS,  
Executive Director.

— AFSCME,  
Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing in support of the "Raise the Wage Act of 2019" (H.R. 582). This legislation would have a critical impact on millions of workers by gradually lifting the current federal minimum wage.

The current federal minimum wage rate of \$7.25 an hour makes it very difficult for workers to meet basic family needs. The last federal minimum wage increase was in 2009. This unjustifiable delay contributes to wage stagnation in our country. A full-time minimum-wage worker earning the federal minimum wage makes barely \$15,000 per year. A worker supporting two kids on an equivalent salary would not even make enough to reach the poverty level. Taking that into consideration coupled with the fact that most minimum-wage jobs rarely include health insurance coverage or child-care assistance, it should be easy to understand why working families in America deserve better. As a result of wage stagnation and income disparity nearly 40 percent of all American families struggle with basic needs.

Raising the minimum wage lifts the wages of low-wage workers but also helps to raise the wages of all workers. H.R. 582 allows for a raise in the federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increases over the next six years until it reaches \$15 an hour at the end of that period. Subsequently, the minimum wage will adjust each year to keep pace with growth in typical workers' wages. The legislation also immediately phases out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991 and sunsets the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities.

Raising the minimum wage will help grow the economy. Workers who are paid a living wage are more productive, and more likely to spend their extra earnings immediately.

America needs a raise. AFSCME strongly supports the "Raise the Wage Act of 2019."

The 10-year delay has pushed millions of working families below the poverty line. Please vote yes on the bill and no on any efforts to weaken it, including any motions to recommit.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,

Director of Federal Government Affairs.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER,

July 15, 2019.

Re: Pass the Raise the Wage Act of 2019

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Women's Law Center, I strongly urge you to vote for the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 when it comes to the House floor, and vote against any Motion to Recommit, or any amendment that would limit the scope of the bill or create anything other than a single, fair, and adequate federal minimum wage for all working people in the United States. Like the recently passed Paycheck Fairness Act, the Raise the Wage Act is essential to advance equal pay for women and economic security for their families.

Today, women across the country—especially women of color—continue to experience a pay gap and a higher risk of poverty than men. Women working full time, year round typically make only 80 percent of what their male counterparts make, leaving a wage gap of 20 cents on the dollar. This wage gap varies by race and is larger for women of color: Black women working full time, year round typically make only 61 cents, Native women only 58 cents, and Latinas only 53 cents, for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts. While Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women make 85 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, many AAPI communities experience drastically wider pay gaps.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will address the pay discrimination, often cloaked by employer-imposed pay secrecy policies, that is one factor driving these persistent wage gaps. But women's overrepresentation in low-wage jobs is another key factor: women are close to two-thirds of the workforce in jobs that pay the minimum wage or just a few dollars above it, and more than two-thirds of workers in tipped jobs. Women of color are particularly overrepresented among tipped workers and other low-wage workers. And they are particularly harmed by a \$7.25 federal minimum wage that has not gone up in a decade—and by a \$2.13 tipped minimum cash wage that has been frozen for an astonishing 28 years.

The Raise the Wage Act will raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour by 2025, then index the minimum wage so that it continues to rise along with wages overall. It will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth so that they, too, can benefit from a decent minimum wage. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that the bill (as introduced) would give nearly one in three working women a raise, including 41 percent of Black working women, 38 percent of working Latinas, 29 percent of white working women, and 18 percent of Asian working women. Because women are the majority of workers who would see their pay go up, wage gaps would likely narrow as well; indeed, NWLC research shows that women working full time, year round in states with a minimum wage of at least \$10 per hour face a gender wage gap that is one-third smaller than the wage gap across states with a \$7.25 minimum wage. And in "One Fair Wage" states where employers already have to pay their tipped workers the regular minimum wage before tips, the average poverty rate for women tipped workers is lower—and wage gaps for women overall are smaller—

than in states that follow the \$2.13 federal standard. One Fair Wage also ensures that women in tipped jobs have a paycheck they can count on, making them less vulnerable to the sexual harassment from customers that women can feel forced to tolerate when they have to rely on tips for nearly all of their income.

A \$15 minimum wage will make a meaningful difference for millions across the country who are struggling to put food on the table, access the health care they need, and support themselves and their families. But it is still a modest wage relative to the expenses that women and their families face every day, no matter where they live in the United States. According to EPI, by 2025, a single worker without children will need at least full-time earnings at \$15 an hour (\$31,200 annually) to meet basic needs, and workers in costlier areas and those supporting families will need more. By establishing a \$15 federal minimum wage by 2025 and phasing out harmful exclusions, the Raise the Wage Act gradually reaches a single wage floor that will benefit working people and our economy nationwide.

We strongly urge you to reject any amendments or alternatives that would establish a regional minimum wage at the federal level, which would leave women of color behind and cement the wage disparities that the Raise the Wage Act is critically needed to address. And we urge you equally strongly to reject any and all carveouts for certain employers or certain types of employees. Equal pay for women requires a single, fair, and decent federal wage floor for all working people across the country—including the tipped workers, young workers, and workers with disabilities who have been harmed by exclusionary policies for generations.

Women and people of color have been left behind by our economy and our policies far too often, for far too long. Adopting the Raise the Wage Act will mark a vitally important step toward ensuring they can work with equity, dignity, and safety. We urge you to pass the Raise the Wage Act on the House floor and reject any alternative, or any amendments that would reduce its strength or scope.

Sincerely,

EMILY J. MARTIN,  
*Vice President for Education  
& Workplace Justice.*

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW,

July 12, 2019.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (hereinafter "Lawyers' Committee"), a nonpartisan civil rights organization formed at the request of President Kennedy to enlist the private bar in providing legal services to address racial discrimination, we urge you to vote for H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, and against any motion to recommit (MTR) the bill. The Raise the Wage Act is a necessary step to increase the federal minimum wage, which has remained at \$7.25 per hour for ten years, and phase out the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at \$2.13 for nearly three decades. The Act would raise wages for millions of workers of color and reverse the growing trend of pay inequality that disproportionately impacts African Americans, Hispanics and other people of color.

The Lawyers' Committee strongly believes the Raise the Wage Act is an essential step towards reducing pay inequality and achieving economic security for communities of color. Our economy has grown immensely over the past several decades, but wages

have not—particularly for people of color. Workers of color are more likely to be among the working poor, with African American and Hispanic women respectively making up 10.5% and 9.6%, compared to 4.9% of white women. Additionally, people of color disproportionately live in poverty, with 20% of African Americans and 16% of Hispanics living in poverty compared to 8% of whites. With the Raise the Wage Act, nearly two-fifths of African Americans and one-third of Hispanics would receive a raise, lifting many of these families out of poverty and ensuring they can work with equity, dignity and safety.

We urge you to vote for final passage of the Raise the Wage Act and against any motion to recommit because all workers, especially workers of color, need and deserve adequate wages to achieve economic security.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN CLARK,  
*President & Executive Director.*

JULY 16, 2019.

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically support the Raise the Wage Act of 2019, introduced by Senators Bernie Sanders (VT) and Patty Murray (WA), Representatives Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), Mark Pocan (WI) and Stephanie Murphy (FL).

If enacted, this legislation would:

- Gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2025;
- After 2025, adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages;
- Phase out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991; and,
- Sunset the much criticized ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage through certificates issued by DOL.
- Phase out the subminimum wage for workers under the age of 20.

At a time when wage stagnation and income inequality pose serious threats to our families and our economy, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 will begin to reverse that cycle and raise pay broadly across the bottom of the workforce. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this Act will deliver long-overdue raises to more than 1 in 4 workers, 90% of whom are over the age of 20. The average age of workers who would get a raise is 35, nearly half have some years of college education. In fact, those who work year-round would see a raise in the order of \$3,000 a year, which is enough to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, bank teller, or fastfood worker who today struggles to get by on around \$20,000 per year.

28 percent are working parents with children, and half have family incomes of less than \$40,000 per year. Women make up nearly 58 percent of the workers who would benefit from a \$15 minimum wage, which would be instrumental in helping to close the gender-wage-gap. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would also significantly benefit workers of color, with 38 percent of African American workers and 33 percent of Latinos seeing a pay increase once this law goes into effect.

These are the frontline workers who make America run—yet due to the erosion of the real value of the minimum wage over the last half century, they are struggling even as our economy enjoys a solid recovery.

The time for the Raise the Wage Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible, and for President Trump to sign it when it comes to his desk.

Sincerely,

9to5; A Better Balance; A Place at the Table; AAUW Texas; Abortion Care Network;

ACCESS Women's Health Justice; Accessible Housing Resources, Inc. (AHR); Action Inc.; Action Together NEPA; ADAPT Montana.

Advocate For Justice Inc.; Advocates for Youth; AFL-CIO; African American Ministers In Action; Agape Missions, NFP; AIDS Alabama South, LLC; Alabama Arise; Alameda County Community Food Bank; Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.; All Our Kin.

Allegheny Valley Association of Churches; All-Options; Amara Legal Center; American Association of People with Disabilities; American Association of University Women; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; American Federation of Teachers, Washington; American Postal Workers Union—St Louis Gateway District Area Local; American Psychological Association.

American Public Health Association; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Anne Arundel County NOW; Appalachian Independence Center, Inc.; Arizona Center for Economic Progress; Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families; Asian Law Alliance; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO; Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living; Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP).

ATD Fourth World Movement; Atlanta Community Food Bank; AtWork!; AUSCP—Association of U.S. Catholic Priests; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bend the Arc; Jewish Action; Benedictine Sisters of Erie; Black AIDS Institute.

Black Women's Roundtable; Bread for the World; Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition; CA Capital Chapter—Coalition of Labor Union Women; California Employment Lawyers Association; California Food Policy Advocates; Cambridge United for Justice with Prace; Campaign for America's Future; Campesinos Sin Fronteras; CAP Services, Inc./Community Assets for People.

CARECEN-Central American Resource Center; Caring Across Generations; CASA; CASA of Oregon; Catalyst for Positive Change; Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler counties, NY; Center for Changing Lives; Center for Grovetown Madison Human Needs; Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).

Center for New York City Affairs at The New School; Center for Popular Democracy Action; Center for Public Policy Priorities; Center for Public Representation; Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.; ChangeLab Solutions; Chester County Food Bank; Chicago Chapter of RESULTS, Domestic; Chicago Jobs Council; Chicago Women's AIDS Project.

Child Care Resources; Children's Defense Fund; Children's Advocacy Institute; Church World Service; Cities of Peace Detroit; Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program; Cleveland Nonviolence Network; CLUW of Southwestern PA; CLUW; NORTHEAST CLEVELAND CHAPTER; Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence.

Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians; Coalition of Black Trade Unionist—Northern California; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Coalition of Labor Union Women GPA; Coalition on Human Needs; Collaborative Center for Justice; Collin County Democrats With Disabilities (CCDWD); Collin County Voters With Disabilities; Colorado Center on Law and Policy; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

Communications Workers of America (CWA); Communities Creating Opportunity; Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.; Community Action Partnership, NJ;

Community Advocates of Northern Indiana; Community Labor United; Community Reinvestment Alliance of South Florida; Congregation Beth El, Berkeley; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces; Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces.

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes; Congregation of the Infant Jesus Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Inc.; Connecticut Association for Human Services, Inc.; Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.; Connecticut Voices for Children; Cronucopia Community Advocates; CWA Local 6450; D.C. Hunger Solutions; Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency.

DC KinCare Alliance; DC Language Access Coalition; DC Law Students in Court; DC Volunteer Lawyers Project; DCAEHS, Inc.; Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families; Demos; Disability Law Center; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF); Disability Voters of Maine.

Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse Inc.; Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ); Disciples Justice Action Network; Dominican Development Center, Inc.; Dominican Sisters—Grand Rapids; Dominican Sisters of Houston; DV LEAP; East Central Illinois Community Action Agency; East Hampton Housing Authority; EcoC2S.

Economic Opportunity Institute; Economic Policy Institute; Economic Progress Institute; Economic Roundtable; Ecumenical Poverty Initiative; Educate. Advocate.; Education Equals Making Community Connections; Equal Pay Today; Equal Rights Advocates; Equality California.

Equality North Carolina; Estreet Vendors Association of Chicago (SVAC); Faith Voices Arkansas; Family Promise of Greater Des Moines; Family Promise of Knoxville; Family Values@Work; Farmworker Association of Florida; Feeding Texas; Feminist Majority; First Christian Church.

First Focus Campaign for Children; First United Methodist Church; Florida Impact; Food Chain Workers Alliance; Food Finders Food Bank; Food Lifeline; Food Research & Action Center (FRAC); For Our Future PA; Freedom Network USA; Futures Without Violence.

GCC/IBT Local 24M/9N; Gender Justice; GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD); Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches; Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College, CUNY; Good Jobs Nation; GRANDS AS PARENTS INC; Greater Kansas City Coalition of Labor Union Women; Greater New Jersey CLUW Chapter; Greater Oklahoma City Chapter CLUW.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart; H.O.P.E.; HANA Center; Hawaii Appleseed; Head Start; Headstart; HEAL Trafficking; Healthy and Free Tennessee; HEAR US Inc.

Hill Snowden Foundation; Hispanic Federation; Holy Cross Ministries; Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence; Housing Choice Partners; Howard Brown Health; Hudson County Housing Resource Center; Humanity; Hunger Action Network of NYS; Hunger Free Vermont.

Hunger Solutions New York; Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger; IHM Sisters IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office; Illinois Hunger Coalition; Illinois Collaboration on Youth; Impact Fund; In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda; Indiana Community Action Association; Indiana Institute for Working Families; Indivisible Michigan 8th—Ingham.

Inspirational Gospel Assembly; Interfaith Impact of New York State; Interfaith Worker Justice; International Labor Rights Forum; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Imple-

ment Workers of America, UAW; Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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#### THE RACIST HISTORY OF TIPPING

(By Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II)

This week, the House of Representatives will have a chance to end a pernicious legacy of slavery. Lawmakers will vote on the Raise the Wage Act, which would boost the minimum wage across the country to \$15 an hour by 2024. This would be a crucial step toward the first federal minimum wage increase in more than a decade.

A just-released Congressional Budget Office report finds that a \$15 minimum wage would have tremendous benefits for low-wage workers of all races and ethnicities. Yet the stakes are particularly high for black workers. The share who would benefit from the Raise the Wage Act is far larger than the share of white workers who would benefit—38 percent compared with 23 percent.

There's another provision in the legislation—eliminating the subminimum tipped wage—that corrects a wrong that goes much further back than the previous federal minimum wage increase. For workers regularly making more than \$30 a month in tips, employers can currently pay as little as \$2.13 an hour. That subminimum wage has been frozen at this level for decades. Should the Raise the Wage Act pass the House, it will mark the first time that either chamber of Congress has moved to eliminate the subminimum wage, which not only deepens economic inequalities but also happens to be a relic of slavery.

You might not think of tipping as a legacy of slavery, but it has a far more racialized history than most Americans realize. Tipping originated in feudal Europe and was imported back to the United States by American travelers eager to seem sophisticated. The practice spread throughout the country after the Civil War as U.S. employers, largely in the hospitality sector, looked for ways to avoid paying formerly enslaved workers.

One of the most notorious examples comes from the Pullman Company, which hired newly freed African American men as porters. Rather than paying them a real wage, Pullman provided the black porters with just a meager pittance, forcing them to rely on tips from their white clientele for most of their pay.

Tipping further entrenched a unique and often racialized class structure in service jobs, in which workers must please both customer and employer to earn anything at all. A journalist quoted in Kerry Segrave's 2009 book, *Tipping: An American Social History of Gratuities*, wrote in 1902 that he was embarrassed to offer a tip to a white man. "Negroes take tips, of course; one expects that of them—it is a token of their inferiority," he wrote. "Tips go with servility, and no man who is a voter in this country is in the least justified in being in service."

The immorality of paying an insufficient wage to workers, who then were forced to rely on tips, was acknowledged at the time. In his popular 1916 anti-tipping study, *The Itching Palm*, writer William Scott described tipping as an aristocratic custom that went against American ideals. "The relation of a man giving a tip and a man accepting it is as undemocratic as the relation of master and slave," Scott wrote. "A citizen in a republic ought to stand shoulder to shoulder with every other citizen, with no thought of cringing, without an assumption of superiority or an acknowledgment of inferiority."

Several states sought to end the practice in the early 1900s, often in recognition of its

racist roots. But the restaurant industry fought back and was powerful enough to roll back local bans on tipping. And tipped workers—along with most others, as the act applied to industries that together made up only one-fifth of the labor force—were excluded from the first, limited federal minimum wage law passed in 1938.

It took until 1966 for advocates to win a base wage for tipped workers, and that amounted to only 50 percent of the minimum wage already guaranteed to other workers. Congress continued to raise the subminimum tipped wage until 1996, when Herman Cain, who headed the National Restaurant Association at the time, offered legislators a bargain: The industry would accept a small increase in the minimum wage as long as the tipped wage was frozen at \$2.13 an hour.

Congress agreed to the deal, and the tipped minimum wage remains just \$2.13 to this day. Employers are supposed to pay the difference if tips don't bring workers to the full regular minimum wage. But too often that law is not enforced. When the Department of Labor conducted an unusual compliance sweep of 9,000 full-service restaurants between 2010 and 2012, they found that 84 percent had violated the subminimum wage system.

A century later, the industry lobby continues its fight to uphold this two-tiered pay system. Where social movements have gotten cities to pass minimum wage hikes, the lobby has pressured state legislatures to ban local wage increases altogether. The industry also fought to overturn voter-approved initiatives in Maine and Washington, D.C., that would have ended the subminimum tipped wage, while they lobbied legislators in Michigan to keep the issue from reaching the ballot in the first place.

That's why national action to finally reverse this particular vestige of slavery is so vital. No one can live on \$2.13 an hour—a poverty wage.

We may live in a very different society from 150 years ago, but the subminimum tipped wage still exacerbates the inequalities passed down from that time. Workers in the restaurant industry are far more likely to be poor or near-poor than the general population. Sure, upscale restaurants where wealthy patrons offer servers good tips on expensive menu items can provide a good living, but those jobs are few and far between—and dominated by white men.

Research also shows that tipping itself has a racial component: Customers generally give white workers bigger tips than black workers, regardless of service quality. Thanks in part to segregation within the industry and discrimination from patrons, restaurant worker poverty rates are highest for women and people of color.

Ending the subminimum wage would right one of the historical wrongs keeping certain groups of workers from receiving the full protections they are due, but ultimately, low wages driven by racism hurt workers of all races. Three times as many white workers as black workers stand to get a raise if the federal minimum wage hike passes. Undoing systemic racism opens up opportunities for all people.

With a Republican Senate and president, the Raise the Wage Act might not become national law in the immediate future. But a vote by the House to end the subminimum tipped wage would send an unmistakable signal to the several states considering similar legislation: The days of these racist tiered wage systems are coming to an end.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Will the Chair please tell me how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that youth workers—we have heard about youth workers—should not be paid less for the same work than anyone else. Several of my colleagues have pointed out that there may be a \$9 billion loss in income. According to the CBO, that comes from families making more than \$232,000 a year. Families making less than that will get an increase in pay.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues, including members of the Committee on Education and Labor and Representatives across the Nation who have been instrumental in advancing this legislation. But most of all, I want to recognize the workers in communities across the country who stood up and demanded a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. There are some of them with us today, the Fight for \$15 workers, the SEIU workers, and others from across the country.

I also want to acknowledge a broad coalition of business support, including Business for a Fair Minimum Wage and the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Proposals to increase the minimum wage are always met with the same baseless predictions we have heard today. Opponents cried wolf in the 1930s, and we should not fear the impact of putting money in workers' pockets or, as President Roosevelt said in a fireside chat way back in 1938: "Do not let any calamity-howling executive with an income of \$1,000 a day . . . tell you . . . that a wage of \$11 a week is going to have a disastrous effect on all American industry."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take that advice, pass the Raise the Wage Act and give a raise to 33 million Americans. It is a raise that is long overdue.

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of raising the minimum wage for millions in our country. This important legislation raises the wage for 45 percent of workers in my district, and provides a wage increase of nearly \$640,000.

The Raise the Wage Act will indeed lift thousands of my constituents out of poverty and provide opportunity for economic mobility. However, I would like to highlight the work I have done on this legislation to make it more amenable to small, family owned businesses.

While I certainly acknowledge that every day Americans deserve a raise, we in Congress must be above rhetoric and talking points. With such a significant change proposed to the minimum wage, this must be carried out in a precise, tactful manner. It is of June of this year, the unemployment rate in the United States is a mere 3.7 percent. It is critical that policies we pass through this House do not interrupt or deter this economic prosperity.

Furthermore, while I support this important legislation, we must consider how it will affect small businesses and their economic futures. Therefore, I have negotiated with the Committee a provision to lengthen the phase in period to \$15 minimum wage until the year 2026.

Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of the O'Halleran Amendment. This amendment will require a comprehensive GAO report on national and regional economic impacts of the minimum wage increases in this bill. The report will have a special focus on small business and agricultural sectors. It will facilitate Congress' ability to make policy changes based on the actual economic effects of this legislation.

Lastly, I submitted two amendments that exempt local and small farms, as well as small businesses from the \$15 minimum wage. These amendments delayed the minimum wage from reaching \$15 until the year 2029, as well as kept the current "tipped-wage" provision for restaurant workers. I also sought to create a small business tax credit, along with providing two additional years to comply with a doubling of the federal minimum wage.

By providing tax credits, compliance exemptions, and a longer runway to \$15, my amendments intended to give small businesses the tools they need to thrive in the economy this bill will create.

I was disappointed that my amendments were not included in this measure, but will work for their inclusion elsewhere given the vast economic benefits that small businesses provide in my community, and around the country. There are over 30 million small businesses in the United States today. Additionally, there are 24.3 million individually operated businesses with no employees. Small businesses employ over 60 million Americans—nearly half of the private workforce—and there are now over 287,000 small business exporters.

The United States small business community contributes approximately \$8.5 trillion to the economy, roughly half of the United States total \$17 trillion GDP.

Small businesses are the back bone of our country, and the engine that drives our economy. While I will vote in favor of this legislation, I hope to have my amendments incorporated as this bill moves through the legislative process. I include them for the RECORD.

Passage of this act is simply the first step. As this legislation heads over to the Senate, I look forward to working with my friends to improve this bill and ensure further small businesses provisions are included, as well as with my colleagues in the House on future legislation that would help address these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time to recognize the importance of small businesses to our great nation, and the need to pay Americans a living wage.

#### AMENDMENT TO H.R. 582, AS REPORTED

##### OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR OF TEXAS

Strike section 3 and insert the following new section:

#### SEC. 3. MINIMUM WAGE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) **SMALL BUSINESS MINIMUM WAGE RATE.**—With respect to an employer that is a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), except as otherwise provided in this section, the wage in effect under subsection (a)(1) shall be—

"(1) \$9.00 an hour during the calendar year 2019;

"(2) \$9.50 an hour during the calendar year 2020;

"(3) \$10.00 an hour during the calendar year 2021;

"(4) \$10.50 an hour during the calendar year 2022;

"(5) \$11.00 an hour during the calendar year 2023;

"(6) \$11.50 an hour during the calendar year 2024;

"(7) \$12.00 an hour during the calendar year 2025;

"(8) \$12.50 an hour during the calendar year 2026;

"(9) \$13.00 an hour during the calendar year 2027;

"(10) \$13.50 an hour during the calendar years 2028, 2029, and 2030; and

"(11) \$15.00 an hour during the calendar year 2031 and each year thereafter."

Add at the end the following new section:

#### SECTION \_\_\_\_ . MINIMUM-WAGE EMPLOYEE CREDIT FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 45T. MINIMUM-WAGE EMPLOYEE CREDIT FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of section 38, in the case of an eligible small employer, the minimum-wage employee credit for a taxable year determined under this section is an amount equal to \$200 for each minimum-wage employee of the employer.

"(b) **LIMITATION.**—The amount of the credit determined under subsection (a) for any taxable year shall not exceed \$10,000.

"(c) **ELIGIBLE SMALL EMPLOYER.**—For purposes of this section—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The term 'eligible small employer' means an employer with not more than 50 employees.

"(2) **AGGREGATION AND OTHER RULES.**—For purposes of this section—

"(A) **AGGREGATION RULES.**—All employers treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 shall be treated as a single employer.

"(B) **OTHER RULES.**—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 52 shall apply."

(b) **CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.**—Section 38(b) of such Code is amended by striking "plus" at the end of paragraph (31), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (32) and inserting ", plus", and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(33) in the case of an eligible small employer (as such term is defined in section 45T, the minimum-wage employee credit determined under section 45T(a))."

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following item:

"Sec 45T. Minimum-wage employee credit for small employers."

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### AMENDMENT TO H.R. 582, AS REPORTED

##### OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR OF TEXAS

Add at the end the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . AGRICULTURE EXEMPTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made under this Act, shall be construed to repeal or alter the exemption under section 13(a)(6) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(6)).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Raise the Wage Act that raises the federal minimum wage to \$15. This bill is smart federal policy that will improve the lives of workers and their children

across the nation, helping them pay their bills, support their children, and grow our economy via their increased spending power.

Many do not remember that—from the outset—the intent was that the minimum wage should be a livable wage. The federal minimum wage was part of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; critical legislation supporting workers and children by setting a federal minimum wage, requiring time-and-a-half pay, and banning the atrocity of child labor in factories. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt even said, “It seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country . . . and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living.”

At a time in our country when the wealth gap is appallingly large, I am proud that the Democratic Leadership is prioritizing a livable wage. For over a decade millions of hard-working Americans worked full-time making just \$7.25 an hour. Tipped workers, teen workers, or workers with disabilities have made even less. Current law allows tipped workers to make just \$2.13 an hour plus tips, allows teen workers to be paid just \$4.25 an hour for their first 90 days, and allows a subminimum wage for people with disabilities, unjustly denying them the equal pay that they deserve. Men and women throughout the nation work full-time yet remain trapped in poverty by their low-wages. According to the American Association of University Women, a single mom raising two kids while working a full-time minimum wage job earns only about \$14,500 or \$5,000 below the poverty line. Clearly, the current minimum wage is not a living wage but a policy that systematically grows the divide between the poor and the secure, creating barriers for low-income workers to break out of poverty.

The minimum wage increase in this bill will help close the wage gap that women—especially African-American and Latina-American women—face due to their disproportionate overrepresentation in tipped employment. Raising the minimum wages also will reduce child poverty. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the increased minimum wage will give raises to 41 million women, 28 percent of whom have children.

As many may know, helping low-income workers is a primary legislative priority for me. In my District, almost 31 percent of children live in poverty and half of those children live in extreme poverty. Further, 25 percent of the tax filers in my district are low-income working parents. I see the challenges that these children and their families face first hand. They are hard-working and incredible people trying to better themselves.

I reject opponents’ arguments that increasing the federal minimum wage will eviscerate jobs. I know first-hand the benefits of an increased minimum wage because the minimum wage in the City of Chicago is \$13 an hour, much higher than the federal wage of \$7.25. According to the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, the transition to this wage had no impact on the employment rate nor did it negatively affect private businesses. Rather, the higher minimum wage created a higher demand by low-income households for employment. Given the positive outcomes from raising the minimum wage in Chicago and given state-wide

economic needs, Governor J.B. Pritzker and our state legislators just raised the state minimum wage to \$15—making Illinois, D.C., and five other states national leaders in providing livable wages for their workers. Our new law will help almost 1.4 million Illinoisans currently making less than \$15 an hour, lifting thousands out of poverty and growing our economy at the same time.

Now today as a Congressman, I proudly cast my vote in support of raising the federal minimum wage to strengthen workers, families, and our economy.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 582. This bill is yet another overreaching power-grab from Washington. Missouri voters already decided to raise their minimum wage last year. However, now the federal government believes it knows better than the states and wants to force a one-size-fits-all policy on all Americans. Unfortunately, this policy will cost 3.7 million jobs nationwide, and would cause nearly half of families with a minimum wage earner to see a reduction in household income.

Even more concerning, H.R. 582 contains a provision to remove choices for disabled workers and their families. Section 6 of this bill would eliminate the 14(c) certificates which enable Sheltered Workshops to operate.

Sheltered Workshops are non-profit, local, or state organizations that provide dignified employment opportunities for individuals who are developmentally, physically, or mentally impaired. These opportunities are enabled by the 14(c) certificates which allows individuals to be paid a wage commensurate with their ability level. Sheltered Workshops also provide the necessary tools for those with disabilities to succeed in their jobs and can help these individuals acclimate to the workforce, and even learn and hone their life and social skills. The level of training and support provided by Sheltered Workshops is essential to the success of the individuals who work there.

No family wants fewer options when deciding how to help their child with disabilities succeed. That is why the 14(c) provision and the Sheltered Workshops provide more options, especially for those who may not “fit” or desire Vocational Rehabilitation services or Medicaid Waiver services. Without the 14(c) provision, many of the people working in sheltered workshops would be left to fend for themselves in the “competitive workforce” or stay home. The 14(c) provision is necessary for providing these individuals the tools they need to succeed.

That is why I submitted an amendment to strike Section 6 from H.R. 582. Unfortunately, my amendment was not made in order which is one more reason why I must oppose this flawed legislation. Let’s defeat this bill and preserve job choices for Americans.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. We must advocate for an increase in the minimum wage, as stagnant wages impede economic mobility and are a detriment to our nation’s working class.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the current minimum wage places nearly 78,000 Texans at this unlivable income, while 118,000 Texans earn even less. The Raise the Wage Act will result in a significant increase in the average annual earnings for Texans. In my home district, this figure is estimated to increase by 18.2 percent, which will

make an immeasurable different in our communities.

Many people in my district are forced to work multiple jobs for long hours to ensure food is on the table for their families. This legislation will eliminate this burden on our working-class families. The economy may be growing, and wages may be rising, but the benefits of economic and wage growth are not felt equally. Individuals working 40 hours a week should be able to afford the basic necessities for themselves and their family.

I proudly stand in this chamber as a co-sponsor of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. I urge my colleagues on both sides to join me in voting for this legislation to promote economic freedom and equity for all Americans.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, a bill that would radically improve the lives of millions of Americans.

For ten years, the longest period in United States history, workers have suffered as the federal minimum wage stayed the same as inflation rose. With the same wages and rising prices, workers essentially received a 17 percent pay cut. That’s unacceptable, and it’s about time we give American workers a raise.

Americans are working just as hard as any generation, and yet, they are receiving less than their parents and they are struggling to afford basic necessities and claim their share of the American dream.

Nationwide polls show that Americans support raising the minimum wage across geographic and party lines.

Georgia’s Second Congressional District, which I represent, is one of many that would be most impacted. 43 percent of workers would receive a wage increase. A majority of these workers are women and people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty. The largest age group that would benefit are those between the ages of 25 and 39.

Nationally, raising the minimum wage to \$15 would lift 1.3 million Americans out of poverty, including 600,000 children. Poverty has devastating effects on families, and studies have shown children born into poverty have greater difficulties succeeding in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Americans work hard and should be able to support themselves and their families. This bill is modest and gradual, giving businesses plenty of time to adjust. Raising the minimum wage is simply another way to help our constituents improve their lives and boost the economy.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. O’HALLERAN

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In the header of section 8, strike “GAO Report” and insert “GAO Report on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

Add at the end the following new section:  
**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . GAO REPORT ON WAGE INCREASE IMPACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days before the date of the third wage increase to first take effect after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General, in consultation with the persons described in subsection (b), shall prepare and submit to Congress a report, that—

(1) identifies and analyzes the effects, in the aggregate, of the first wage increases and second wage increases after such date of enactment on business enterprises (including small business enterprises) including the effects, with respect to such enterprises, on—

(A) the wages and compensation of employees;

(B) the number of employees, disaggregated by full-time and part-time employees;

(C) the prices, sales, and revenues;

(D) employee turnover and retention;

(E) hiring and training costs; and

(F) productivity and absenteeism;

(2) to the extent practicable, identifies such effects in isolation from other factors that may affect business enterprises (including small business enterprises), including—

(A) broader economic conditions;

(B) changes in Federal, State, and local law, policy, and regulation;

(C) industry consolidation;

(D) natural disasters; and

(E) significant demographic changes;

(3) to the extent practicable, identifies and analyzes such effects for the Nation as a whole, and, separately, for—

(A) each census division, as designated by the Bureau of the Census;

(B) each metropolitan statistical area and nonmetropolitan portion (as such terms are defined by the Office of Management and Budget with respect to 2013); and

(C) each urbanized area, urbanized cluster, and rural area, as designated by the Bureau of the Census; and

(4) describes the methodology used to generate the information in the report.

(b) **EXPERT CONSULTATION.**—The persons described in this subsection are—

(1) labor economists with expertise in minimum wage and low wage labor markets;

(2) workers (including agricultural workers), and the labor organizations and worker groups representing such workers;

(3) representatives of businesses, including small businesses, agricultural employers, and businesses in the accommodation and food services sector;

(4) State and local governments; and

(5) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which Congress receives the report under subsection (a), Congress shall—

(1) assess the findings of such report; and

(2) make recommendations with respect to actions of Congress to address the findings of such report, including actions to delay the next scheduled wage increases.

(d) **WAGE INCREASE DEFINED.**—The term “wage increase” means an increase in wages that takes effect under subsection (a)(1) or (g)(1) of section 6, section 3(m)(2)(A)(i), or section 14(c)(1)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended by this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 492, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. This prudent, commonsense amendment is necessary to ensure that once this legislation is passed, it has the positive effects we intended. I strongly support the Raise the Wage Act, and I believe it will positively impact communities nationwide and lift families out of poverty.

The State of Arizona and my constituents in the First District voted

overwhelmingly to raise the minimum wage in 2016. It is currently \$11 an hour. During this implementation of this minimum wage increase, Arizona has seen a 4.3 percent growth in State GDP—the third fastest growing economy in the Nation. We have seen in Arizona that increasing the wage pays off for our economy and our families.

My amendment will only strengthen the underlying bill. It requires independent, objective analysis of the economic and employment impacts of this legislation. It would require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress on the effects of the first two wage increases in the legislation.

Specifically, the GAO must report on the effects on small businesses and on wages and compensation. The report also includes an analysis of the law's effects on urbanized and rural areas.

Importantly, this amendment would require the GAO to consult various stakeholders and experts when developing its report. These would include small business owners, labor economists, agricultural workers, the food service industry, and State and local governments.

It would allow constituents to provide their input on how their families, businesses, and communities have been affected.

This thoughtful, data-driven approach will allow us to see the real impacts of this legislation.

I believe as lawmakers we do the best job of responding to the needs of our constituents when we are best informed.

I want to thank the cosponsors of the amendment and the Education and Labor Committee for working with us and the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a hot economy is leading to higher wages. There are 7.3 million unfilled jobs which puts all workers in a good position to receive higher wages, and we have seen robust wage growth for nearly a year in all categories. Unfortunately, this amendment does nothing to prevent the negative impacts of H.R. 582.

Calling this amendment a fig leaf is an insult to fig leaves.

First, the amendment requires that GAO study only—only—the effects of the first two of the seven wage hikes in H.R. 582, rather than the actual effect of the bill which is increasing the minimum wage by 107 percent to \$15 an hour and indexing the wage rate forever after that.

As my colleagues well know, the first two wage hikes in the bill will not be

as damaging as the increase to \$15. So the results of the proposed GAO study are rigged to avoid use the damaging 107 percent hike as the appropriate benchmark.

Second, this amendment has no teeth. It merely says that Congress can make recommendations after the first two wage hikes have gone into effect. Give me a break. But there is no requirement that Congress do anything in response to these recommendations, and there is no fast-track authority in this amendment.

Third, we already have in our possession a recent detailed and highly credible study of the effects of a 107 percent wage hike to the current Federal minimum wage. With regard to GAO's studies, at the Education and Labor Committee markup of H.R. 582 in March, Chairman SCOTT already dismissed the effectiveness and conclusions of a potential GAO report that might show jobs lost.

Explaining his opposition to a proposed GAO study, Mr. SCOTT said, This amendment suggests that there will be job loss. All of the studies show otherwise.

I urge my colleagues to see this amendment for what it is: an attempt to provide political cover to Democrat Members who are justifiably concerned about the negative impact of a \$15 Federal minimum wage in their districts.

Vote “no” on this amendment and “no” on H.R. 582.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our amendment to the Raise the Wage Act. I joined this amendment to look out for the small businesses and the agricultural businesses that are so vital to the Central Valley of California and to our Nation.

The minimum wage has not been raised since 2009. In the decade since, due to inflation and rising costs, the paychecks of millions of hardworking Americans naturally don't go as far as they used to.

Every worker deserves a living wage, and this amendment ensures that we can give at least 17 million Americans a raise while also protecting farms and small businesses. We do this by requiring the Government Accountability Office to analyze and produce a study of the impact of the first two scheduled wage increases on our Nation's small businesses, our agriculture industry, and our workers.

The study will consider the specific effects of raising the minimum wage in each Census tract and rural area, so families, like those I serve in the Central Valley of California, aren't left behind.

If we find the negative impacts are too great, the relevant committees are required to make recommendations to Congress which may include actions



necessary to delay the next scheduled increases, if necessary.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee already has a low opinion of these types of studies, and his mind is made up about a \$15 Federal minimum wage.

This amendment sets up a rigged process in which House Democrat leaders who already support a 107 percent hike will decide whether to move forward with it. There is no doubt how they will decide.

Congressman GRIJALVA agrees with Chairman SCOTT. He is quoted in a July 15 article in *The Hill* regarding the amendment's proposed study: "It's almost perfunctory. Look what we did. So I don't think it's consequential. But I don't think it's needed, either."

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is not necessary. Let the Democrats vote for the \$15 wage hike and take the consequences of it. Democrats should stop trying to provide political cover for themselves with this amendment which does absolutely nothing.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the discussion in committee and Chairman SCOTT's comments were not about this bill. They were about another bill.

To identify that the Members of this Congress do not need data on which to make further decisions, I hope we don't get to that point in time in Congress.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding I am allowed to close, so I will reserve until the other side does so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is correct.

□ 1100

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), committee chairman, for all the hard work he has done. And I want to look forward to a time in America that we can see a time when the working families of America can partake in the economy as others do today.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will say again to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, there is no group of people more than the Republicans on this side of the aisle who care about working families and who work every day for the philosophies that will support those working families and, again, all other groups.

Let me say again, the amendment requires the GAO study only the effects of the first two of the seven wage hikes in H.R. 582 rather than the actual effect of this bill, which is increasing the minimum wage by 107 percent.

As my colleagues well know, the first two wage hikes will not be as damaging as the increase to \$15, so the results of the proposed GAO study are rigged to avoid using the damaging 107 percent hike as the appropriate benchmark.

Second, this amendment has no teeth. It merely says that Congress can make recommendations after the first two wage hikes have gone into effect, but there is no requirement that Congress do anything in response, and there is no fast-track authority in this amendment.

Again, I will say that this amendment is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to see this amendment for what it is: an attempt to provide political cover to Democrat Members who are justifiably concerned about the negative impacts of a \$15 Federal minimum wage in their district.

Vote "no" on this amendment and "no" on H.R. 582.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

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

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

A motion to recommit, if offered; and  
Passage of the bill, if ordered; and  
Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 248, noes 181, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 494]

AYES—248

Adams	Brown (MD)	Clay
Aguilar	Brownley (CA)	Cleaver
Allred	Bustos	Clyburn
Axne	Butterfield	Cohen
Barragán	Carbajal	Connolly
Bass	Cárdenas	Cooper
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Correa
Bera	Cartwright	Costa
Beyer	Case	Courtney
Bishop (GA)	Casten (IL)	Cox (CA)
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Craig
Blunt Rochester	Castro (TX)	Crist
Bonamici	Chu, Judy	Crow
Bost	Cicilline	Cuellar
Boyle, Brendan	Cisneros	Cummings
F.	Clark (MA)	Cunningham
Brindisi	Clarke (NY)	Davids (KS)

Davis (CA)	Kind	Rice (NY)
Davis, Danny K.	King (NY)	Richmond
Davis, Rodney	Kinzing	Rooney (FL)
Dean	Kirkpatrick	Rose (NY)
DeFazio	Krishnamoorthi	Rouda
DeGette	Kuster (NH)	Roybal-Allard
DeLauro	Lamb	Ruiz
DelBene	Langevin	Ruppersberger
Delgado	Larsen (WA)	Rush
Demings	Larson (CT)	Ryan
DeSaulnier	Lawrence	Sánchez
Deutch	Lawson (FL)	Sarbanes
Diaz-Balart	Lee (CA)	Scanlon
Dingell	Lee (NV)	Schakowsky
Doggett	Levin (CA)	Schiff
Doyle, Michael	Levin (MI)	Schneider
F.	Lewis	Schrader
Engel	Lieu, Ted	Schrier
Escobar	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Eshoo	Loeb	Scott, David
Espallat	Loeb	Serrano
Evans	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
Finkenauer	Lowey	Shalala
Fitzpatrick	Lujan	Sherman
Fletcher	Luria	Sherrill
Foster	Lynch	Sires
Frankel	Malinowski	Slotkin
Fudge	Maloney,	Smith (NJ)
Galleo	Carolyn B.	Smith (WA)
Garamendi	Maloney, Sean	Soto
Garcia (IL)	Matsui	Spanberger
Garcia (TX)	McAdams	Speier
Golden	McBath	Stanton
Gomez	McCollum	Stefanik
Gonzalez (TX)	McEachin	Steil
Gottheimer	McGovern	Stevens
Green, Al (TX)	McNerney	Suozy
Grijalva	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)
Grothman	Meng	Takano
Haaland	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Harder (CA)	Morelle	Thompson (MS)
Hartzler	Moulton	Titus
Hastings	Mucarsel-Powell	Tlaib
Hayes	Murphy	Tonko
Heck	Nadler	Torres (CA)
Herrera Beutler	Napolitano	Torres Small
Higgins (NY)	Neal	(NM)
Hill (CA)	Neguse	Trahan
Himes	Norcross	Trone
Horn, Kendra S.	O'Halleran	Underwood
Horsford	Ocasio-Cortez	Upton
Houlahan	Omar	Van Drew
Hoyer	Pallone	Vargas
Huffman	Panetta	Veasey
Jackson Lee	Pappas	Vela
Jayapal	Pascrell	Velázquez
Jeffries	Payne	Visclosky
Johnson (GA)	Perlmutter	Wasserman
Johnson (TX)	Peters	Schultz
Kaptur	Peterson	Waters
Katko	Phillips	Watson Coleman
Keating	Pingree	Welch
Kelly (IL)	Pocan	Wexton
Kennedy	Porter	Wild
Khanna	Pressley	Wilson (FL)
Kildee	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Kilmer	Quigley	
Kim	Raskin	

#### NOES—181

Aderholt	Chabot	Gohmert
Allen	Cheney	Gonzalez (OH)
Amash	Cline	Gooden
Amodei	Cloud	Gosar
Armstrong	Cole	Granger
Arrington	Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)
Babin	Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)
Bacon	Comer	Graves (MO)
Baird	Conaway	Green (TN)
Balderson	Cook	Griffith
Banks	Crawford	Guest
Barr	Crenshaw	Guthrie
Bergman	Curtis	Hagedorn
Biggs	Davidson (OH)	Harris
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Hern, Kevin
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Hice (GA)
Brady	Duncan	Higgins (LA)
Brooks (AL)	Dunn	Hill (AR)
Brooks (IN)	Emmer	Holding
Buchanan	Estes	Hollingsworth
Buck	Ferguson	Hudson
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Huizenga
Budd	Flores	Hunter
Burchett	Foxx (NC)	Hurd (TX)
Burgess	Fulcher	Johnson (LA)
Byrne	Gaetz	Johnson (OH)
Calvert	Gallagher	Johnson (SD)
Carter (GA)	Gianforte	Jordan
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Joyce (OH)

Joyce (PA)	Norman	Stauber
Keller	Nunes	Steube
Kelly (MS)	Olson	Stewart
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Stivers
King (IA)	Palmer	Taylor
Kustoff (TN)	Pence	Thompson (PA)
LaHood	Perry	Thornberry
LaMalfa	Posey	Timmons
Lamborn	Ratcliffe	Tipton
Latta	Reed	Turner
Lesko	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Long	Rice (SC)	Walberg
Loudermilk	Riggleman	Walden
Lucas	Roby	Walker
Luetkemeyer	Rodgers (WA)	Walorski
Marchant	Roe, David P.	Waltz
Marshall	Rogers (AL)	Watkins
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
Mast	Rose, John W.	Webster (FL)
McCarthy	Rouzer	Wenstrup
McCaul	Roy	Westerman
McClintock	Rutherford	Williams
McHenry	Scalise	Wilson (SC)
McKinley	Schweikert	Wittman
Meadows	Scott, Austin	Womack
Meuser	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Miller	Shimkus	Wright
Mitchell	Simpson	Yoho
Moolenaar	Smith (MO)	Young
Mooney (WV)	Smith (NE)	Zeldin
Mullin	Smucker	
Newhouse	Spano	

## NOT VOTING—3

Abraham	Fortenberry	Gabbard
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□ 1132

Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. ROSE of New York and GROTHMAN changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEGUSE). The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

## MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. MEUSER. I am, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Meuser moves to recommit the bill H.R. 582 to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

## SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SMALL BUSINESS SURVIVAL.

The amendments made by this Act shall not apply with respect to an enterprise (as defined in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203)) that—

- (1) employs fewer than 10 individuals; or
- (2) whose annual gross volume of sales made or business done is less than \$1,000,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, this motion will not delay passage of this bill or return it to committee. It is our last opportunity as a House to amend this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to offer a motion to recommit that is about small business survival. It is about protecting the 8 million minority-owned

small businesses, the 9.9 million women-owned small businesses, and the 2.5 million veteran-owned small businesses around the country from the devastating repercussions of H.R. 582.

With this motion to recommit, employers with fewer than 10 employees or annual sales under \$1 million will not be forced to implement a \$15-per-hour minimum wage.

If this amendment is adopted, mom-and-pop shops across the country will be protected from this bill's extreme and unnecessary one-size-fits-all Washington mandate.

Small businesses employ almost half of all U.S. employees and account for two-thirds of net new jobs. 99.9 percent of U.S. businesses are small.

We know small businesses and their employees are the most vulnerable to this radical and unprecedented increase in the Federal minimum wage. The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that businesses with fewer than 500 employees will account for 57 percent of jobs lost due to this bill, and businesses with fewer than 100 employees will account for 43 percent of jobs lost.

Yet my Democrat colleagues have done nothing to protect these job creators from a 107 percent minimum wage hike. Instead, this legislation treats big and small businesses exactly same.

Without the financial resilience needed to absorb the increase in bottom-line costs that this legislation will bring about, small businesses and towns in every congressional district will be forced to make very tough choices: Do they lay off workers? Raise prices on their customers? Replace workers with robotics? Or shut their doors completely?

Congress should not force our Nation's smallest and most vital job creators to make those kinds of decisions.

Small business workers and their families will also take a significant hit. The nonpartisan CBO backs up this reality, reporting that mandating a \$15 minimum wage would “reduce business income and raise prices as higher labor costs would be absorbed by business owners and then passed on to consumers.”

From coast to coast, we have already seen real-world examples of how workers and employers would be punished by this socialist policy. One study found that Washington-knows-best mandates that stretch across our Nation—or better known as socialist policies—we have real-world examples showing that they simply do not work.

There was a very thorough study by Washington State University which showed, in Seattle, a \$15 minimum wage law reduced total income paid to the city's low-wage workers by \$120 million per year in that one city alone.

The cost of living in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York City, where a \$15 minimum wage is already in place, or soon to be, is much higher than my district in Pennsylvania. With such dis-

parities in the cost of living across the country, imagine what a wage hike will do to rural areas, rural workers represented by many of us in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, despite today's booming economy and rising wages, supporters of H.R. 582 think it is best to force a punishing, Washington one-size-fits-all wage hike on small businesses across America.

A small business owner in the State of Washington actually said it best:

Congress should not and cannot mandate its way to wage growth and prosperity, because those mandates hit small business hardest.

Mr. Speaker, even the liberal Washington Post said yesterday: “There is a trade-off in raising the minimum wage so substantially.”

The Washington Post went on to say: “Those who would lose out, in the form of no job at all, would wind up not with less pay but with no pay.”

I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this modest but important amendment to H.R. 582. The small businesses and their workers back home in each and every one of our districts will thank us for protecting their livelihood.

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

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, there has been an awful lot of talk recently about what it means to be a patriotic American, and the fact is the answer for each of us is deeply personal.

I wasn't blessed to be born an American citizen. I was born in Vietnam, where my parents faced persecution by a communist government, in part, for their wartime affiliation with the U.S. military.

When I was a baby, we fled Vietnam by boat, running out of fuel in the South China Sea when a U.S. Navy ship came to our rescue, helping us reach a Malaysian refugee camp. A Lutheran church then sponsored our passage to America, where we became proud citizens.

Although we were eternally grateful to be here, life wasn't always easy. My mom worked as a seamstress and my dad at a power plant, and together, they cleaned office buildings at night, often bringing my brother and me along.

My parents didn't speak English well or have a community of close friends, but what they did have, like so many immigrants, was a strong work ethic.

My dad also had a labor union in his corner, and the union spoke for him and they fought for him.

My parents worked hard to make ends meet so that their children would have opportunities they themselves never had. And that is the American Dream, which brings me back to the question of what it means to be a patriot.

For me, it starts with gratitude for this country and an appreciation for its exceptional qualities.

This country saved my family's life. It gave us refuge and opportunity, as it has done for so many across generations.

But I think patriotism goes beyond love of country. It is also about striving to make this country even stronger. It is about trying to make life a little bit easier for Americans who work hard and play by the rules, folks like my parents and like so many of my constituents.

I support this bill for a simple reason: In the greatest country on Earth, nobody with the dignity of a full-time job should suffer the indignity of not being able to provide for themselves or their loved ones.

For a decade, the minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 an hour, while the cost of living has skyrocketed, and there is no part in this great country where \$7.25 is a living wage anymore.

It is past time we gave hardworking American families a raise. They have earned it.

This bill gradually increases the minimum wage in seven steps, reaching \$15 by 2025 at the earliest. This is a reasonable bill, not a radical one.

CBO estimates this bill will raise wages for nearly 30 million workers and lift millions out of poverty. They will have more money to spend in the local economy because workers are consumers, too, and they will be less reliant on government programs. And given that our deficit will exceed a trillion dollars this year, that should be music to my Republican colleagues' ears.

I oppose this MTR because every American who works hard deserves a fair shot at the American Dream. Whether you live in Pennsylvania or Arizona or Minnesota or Florida, you deserve a raise. And whether you work for a large corporation or a small business, you deserve a raise; you deserve a living wage; and you certainly deserve \$15 an hour.

Public polling shows strong bipartisan support for increasing the minimum wage.

Make no mistake: This MTR is simply a Republican attempt to defeat this bill because they oppose any increase to the Federal minimum wage. Some oppose the concept of a minimum wage at all. Well, the American people disagree, and as Democrats, we stand with the American people.

The contrast is clear: Our Republican colleagues made working families pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Yes, they did. And now they are opposing our efforts to give those working families a raise. That is not just bad policy; that is shameful.

When I vote "yes" on final passage, I will be thinking about my parents and my hardworking constituents; and thank God families like these have labor unions fighting for them in the

workplace and in the Halls of Congress. This will be one of the proudest votes I cast.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the MTR. Let's pass this bill. Let's continue this fight in the Senate and in State capitals across this country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 218, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 495]

#### AYES—210

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

Turner  
Upton  
Van Drew  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski

Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wild  
Williams

Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

#### NOES—218

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

Abraham  
Fortenberry

Gabbard  
Green, Al (TX)

□ 1154

Mr. BILIRAKIS changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 495.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

## RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 199, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 496]

AYES—231

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

Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Viscosky

Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch

Wexton  
Wild  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

## NOES—199

Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brindisi  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cunningham  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Foxx (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar

## NOT VOTING—3

Abraham Fortenberry Gabbard

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

□ 1201

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

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

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. 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. 582.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill so that we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life.

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

## COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE STEVE SCALISE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jennifer Megan Bel Miller, Chief of Staff, the Honorable STEVE SCALISE, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, Jenifer Megan Bel Miller, have been served with a subpoena for testimony in a criminal trial issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. This criminal trial is in relation to alleged threats made against Congressman Steve Scalise and his family, received through Congressman Scalise's official government office.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JENIFER MEGAN BEL MILLER,  
Chief of Staff.

### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business, and last votes of the week would be expected no later than 3 p.m.

We will consider several bills, Madam Speaker, under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

The House will also consider H.R. 397, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, commonly referred to as the Butch Lewis Act.

The 10 million Americans who have paid into multiemployer pensions deserve to know they will receive the benefits they have earned when they retire. The bill will help ensure a secure retirement for these workers and retirees.

In addition, Madam Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 2203, the Homeland Security Improvement Act. This legislation introduced by Congresswoman ESCOBAR will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security addresses border issues in a responsible and humane manner. The bill fosters greater accountability when it comes to the handling of children and migrant families at all levels within the Department of Homeland Security.

The House is also expected to consider additional legislation, Madam Speaker, related to the current humanitarian crisis on the southern border.

Members are advised that additional legislative items are expected. As we know, it is the last week before we adjourn, and there is an effort to try to get things done that can, in fact, be done within the timeframe we have available to us.

It is my sincere hope that an agreement is reached to raise budget caps and the debt limit. The Speaker and Secretary Mnuchin and others have been working very hard on this objective, and I am hopeful that they will reach an agreement that we can agree on as a House and as a Senate. Assuming an agreement is reached, we will consider that as soon as they reach it, and hopefully, that will be next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving that update on the schedule.

I know that we have been in talks on a budget caps agreement. I met with the Vice President earlier this morning, talking through some of the things that may be included.

Obviously, there is no final agreement. We would hope that those talks go on, and we, hopefully, reach an agreement where we can give real certainty, especially to our Department of Defense, that we will look at what sequestration would do to defense. We have been able to rebuild our defense over the last 2 years. We would like to see that progress continue.

A lot of other issues are at stake there, and we encourage those talks to move forward. We will be ready to move if there is an agreement reached between all the parties, including the White House.

I did not hear mention of anything regarding the BDS legislation. We have heard that there might be some movement on standing up against the BDS movement.

I know that when we looked at a number of bills, there are some resolutions that are out there, some good, some bad. As we know, there is time for talk, and then, there is time for action. The resolutions are only talk.

The legislation, H.R. 336 by Mr. MCCAUL, is the only bill out there. S. 1 moved through the Senate with a large, overwhelming bipartisan vote. It is similar legislation that would actually have teeth, not just words, which are important, but words followed up with action, real teeth to help not only this country but our States that are also standing up against the BDS movement, to give them some muscle, some ability to stand up to the BDS movement.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, is there any indication that there might be movement on H.R. 336, to follow up the words with real action against the BDS movement?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. In response to my friend, Madam Speaker, I will tell him

that the committee did, in fact, mark up bills this past Wednesday, yesterday, and those bills are being looked at to possibly move to the floor.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, specifically, if I could ask my friend, H.R. 336 was not one of those bills that was marked up. The only bills that were marked up were resolutions.

Again, while some of those resolutions might have some good language in them, there are no actual teeth. There is no policy. There is no change in law to give us more tools as a country to stand up to the BDS movement, to defend our friend Israel.

As we know, the BDS movement really is rooted in anti-Semitism to undermine Israel's economy, which none of us should want to see. I know my friend doesn't want to see Israel's economy undermined, but there is a movement to do that. If we are going to truly stand up against it, words are not enough. We need action.

H.R. 336, again, reflects similar legislation that passed the Senate with an overwhelming vote, Republicans and Democrats coming together to give real tools to stand up to this movement and support our friend Israel.

Madam Speaker, I would inquire of the gentleman, would that bill be considered? It was not part of the package of bills that were brought up in committee this week. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, again, I will tell my friend, as he has articulated, that bill has not been marked up in committee. There are two bills that were marked up in committee, and there is a possibility that we will consider those, but the other bill was not marked up.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I would encourage that we go back and look. This committee can do better. If we are going to stand up against this movement and support our friend Israel against this attempt to undermine their economy, we need real tools.

H.R. 336 is the only instrument out there. It is similar to S. 1. We would love to see S. 1 passed. There have been questions about whether or not it has an origination problem, so that is why H.R. 336 was filed.

But, again, H.R. 336 has the same language that passed with 77 votes in the Senate, overwhelmingly, Republicans and Democrats coming together. I would encourage us to follow that lead of bipartisanship, standing with Israel.

I am disappointed that it is not included in the package. It moved out of committee. I would hope we would go back and consider bringing that bill to the floor.

Again, words are nice, but words without action don't give us the tools we need to stand with our friend Israel against this undermining attempt known as BDS.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

□ 1215

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments. Unfortunately, of course, three of the component parts of the bill, to which the gentleman refers, we are strongly for. Unfortunately, they were held up in the Senate, as the gentleman may know.

We want to see the MOU for Israel assistance package, which we strongly support, which was negotiated by the Obama administration and which we strongly support in terms of the amount of money, available not only on a general basis, but also a specific basis, for support of Israel's defense against rockets and other munitions that would be sent into Israel.

We also support the Syria sanctions and the Jordan MOU, so we hope, at some point, they will move. I will reiterate, however, there have been two bills marked up, and the possibility of considering those for next week is there.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, clearly, if there are issues that need to be worked out, differences that might exist between the chairman and the lead Republican on the committee, that work needs to be done. There have been no indications given to us of some counteroffer, some different way to do it, some better way to do it, than what is in H.R. 336.

But again, the language in H.R. 336 is the same language that was in S. 1, which passed the Senate with a 77-23 vote. It doesn't mean that the Senate has the best idea, but it shows there was a way that Republicans and Democrats could come together to stand with Israel against this movement.

If there is a better way to do it, we would be more than happy to work through those better ideas. None of those better ideas have been presented to us. They just shut down that bill. They shut down the ability to have a bill come to the floor to actually put teeth in law to give us more tools.

I would urge that if there is a better alternative, that the chairman of the committee or the leadership on your side has, please present that and let's negotiate it, but none of that has been presented up until now.

So, I would just encourage us to do better as we try to give more support to our friend Israel against this growing movement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask about the agenda as we have seen it so far in the decorum. The agenda we have seen this week alone, multiple pieces of legislation—whether it is targeted at the President, we had a resolution on the President's tweet. There was a resolution filed to impeach the President of the United States. There was a resolution to hold Trump officials in contempt of Congress with no basis for that contempt. There were multiple resolutions just this week to target and harass different policies of the administration—there is so much legislation we ought to be on this floor

debating to do things that would actually help real families.

There is a crisis at our border, and there has been no bipartisan legislation. The bills that are going to be coming to the floor next week, that the gentleman mentioned, dealing with homeland security are known by many in the homeland security field as the open borders bill, not a bipartisan approach to solving our problem at the border. We need a secure border. We need to solve the crisis at the border.

Fix our broken asylum laws. We want to encourage asylum to work. There ought to be a way to apply for asylum. But, in all honesty, if somebody goes through other countries and turns down asylum in those countries and comes here and just reads a script, because they know there is a loophole in our law, we ought to work together to fix those broken loopholes and the things that are causing an overwhelming crisis at our border. That has not been done.

Bills to lower drug prices. We had a bipartisan agreement in the Committee on Energy and Commerce, to lower drug prices, and yet that was abandoned when that bill came to the floor and sent in a way that became a partisan bill. These shouldn't be partisan issues.

I would hope that we would move away from the harassment agenda and get back to an agenda that is focused on Republicans and Democrats working together, not in a partisan way to say, hey, we passed some bill out of the House, that everybody knows is going nowhere because it was a partisan approach.

Look at what the Senate has done to move bipartisan bills through their Chamber. We can do the same. We can do better than the Senate, but we are not.

When the Speaker breaks the House rules, when you see this break down, it just raises the ire because there is not that attempt to work in a bipartisan way to solve these problems. And there are a lot of good ideas that are bipartisan to solve these problems. The disappointment is that we don't see those coming to the House floor.

The bills that deal with real policy coming to the House floor are only brought, by and large, from a partisan perspective, and the bipartisan approaches are being discarded.

BDS is one clear example where there is a way to solve the problem, where Republicans and Democrats came together. Even from the gentleman's acknowledgement, there is no indication that it is going to move out of committee any time soon. It ought to be out of committee and it ought to be on the House floor, so that we can not only debate it, but pass it, and get a bill to the President's desk to allow us to stand up more against the BDS movement in support of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

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

First of all, let me say two things:

We are confronting, in my view, an unprecedented refusal of an administration to cooperate with the Congress in the exercise of its constitutional duties. I refer specifically to the issuance of subpoenas, either for testimony or for documentary evidence, so the Congress can properly exercise its oversight responsibilities under the Constitution.

I have been here for some almost four decades, and I have never seen any administration, essentially, direct across the board no response to the Congress of the United States or to its committees. So, yes, we are pursuing.

The gentleman referred to the contempt citation dealing with Mr. BARR and Mr. ROSS. Now, the issue at the center of that, as the gentleman knows, is the administration ultimately decided it would not pursue the policies that were the subject of that investigation. However, it is not about the specific, but it is about the general constitutional responsibility that this Congress has to the American people.

We ask for information not on behalf of ourselves individually, but on behalf of the American people, so they will know what their government is doing, there will be a transparency to the operations of government, and they will be able to determine whether or not any administrative official, or the administration generally, is acting on its behalf personally or whether it is acting on behalf of the American people.

So, from that perspective, I think the resolutions that we have offered, of which there, essentially, have been two dealing with this issue, and maybe more, the refusal to cooperate with subpoenas has continued.

I hope the gentleman will understand that we are trying to protect the responsibilities and authority of the Congress of the United States, the people's body, the article I body, to do its duty properly.

Secondly, yes, we did have a very difficult day yesterday. But I will tell my friend from Louisiana that I think it is the absolute responsibility of this body to respond if it sees things that are being done by the administration or by others that it perceives to be contrary to the ideas of this country, contrary to the declaration that we believe that all men and, yes, all women are created equal; contrary to the extraordinary wrenching war that we had among the States to determine that all were equal. And a construction period.

And then, as I grew up in the 1950s and the 1960s, looking racism in the face and saying, we reject it, that we reject racism, we reject prejudices, we reject simplifying if people are a certain color, a certain race, a certain nationality, or a certain gender, that somehow, they are less than other Americans. I think it is our responsibility to confront that.

That is what we did yesterday. It was difficult, I understand. I was sorry that it was not a bipartisan vote, because I



don't believe that Members on your side of the aisle want to tolerate racism any more than we want to tolerate racism. And if we see it, I think we have a responsibility to speak out, to stand up, and to say this is not right in America, this is not America.

So, yes, we had a resolution yesterday that the gentleman refers to in response to a tweet. It was not the tweet, it was what the tweet said, what it implied, what it diminished in terms of America's sense of decency and equality and tolerance and inclusion for our people.

Now, let me go to legislation. As the gentleman knows, we have passed substantial pieces of legislation.

We passed H.R. 1. No Republicans voted for that, but it seeks to make it easier for people to vote in America, make sure their vote is protected and counted.

It made sure that we have transparency in the financing of campaigns.

It made sure that our redistricting was fair to our citizens and that we politicians were not drawing the districts, but that the districts are drawn in fairness to the American people.

It also demanded ethics performance.

But then we passed an anti-hate resolution. It was just words, but it said no to hate: 173 Republicans voted for that. It overwhelming passed bipartisan.

We passed a Land and Water Conservation Fund that made that fund permanent, a very important bill for a State like Louisiana and, quite frankly, my own State of Maryland, who are all surrounded by water, have a lot of water. That bill got 133 Republicans. It languishes still in the Senate.

We passed the SECURE Act, which makes it easier for people to get retirement security. That was supported by 187 Republicans.

We passed the violence against women reauthorization. Unfortunately, it didn't get overwhelming votes, but it got 33 Republicans voting for it. It languishes in the Senate.

We passed a provision that said we want to protect preexisting conditions in the Affordable Care Act. We got 8 Republicans. I would have wished we had gotten more.

We passed disaster relief. The gentleman knows a lot about disaster relief, important to his State. Unfortunately, we only got 34 Republicans, but it was a bipartisan bill.

We have also passed background checks, which are supported by 90 percent of the American people, to try to make gun violence lessened in the United States of America. For that bill, we only got 8 Republicans.

But those two bills, supported by 90 percent of the American people, languishes in the United States Senate, the majority leader not bringing up that legislation.

We passed a national emergency resolution, which said, Mr. President, you can't take money that we appropriated for X and just send it over to Y. That was, I thought, a protection of our con-

stitutional authority. The Constitution says we raise, and we spend money and we direct the executive—we direct the executive—how to do that. That got 13 Republicans supporting it, a major piece of legislation.

We passed a Dreamer legislation. We have been asking for that legislation for almost a decade, or at least 6 years, I should say. And that legislation got no vote over the last 5 years. It got a vote this year. We got a number of Republicans—7 to be exact—to vote for that.

Now, I could go through a number of other pieces of legislation, including, lastly, the minimum wage bill. This was about capitalism, not socialism. We are capitalists over here. We believe in the free market system over here. And any assertion to the contrary, Madam Speaker, is absolutely false.

It is a good political tactic, it is a scare tactic, Madam Speaker, but I reject it out of hand. We believe in the free market system. We believe the free market system has been the system that has provided the most benefits for the broadest number of people.

□ 1230

We believe that is one of the great facets of our democracy, our free market system. And I will tell my friend, Madam Speaker, that it was Democrats in the 1930s that saved the free market system. It was Democrats in December of 2007 that came in and made sure that the free market system did not crash after 8 years of Republican leadership.

I would hope that the gentleman would not make the assertion that surely he knows is not true, Madam Speaker, that we on this side are looking to support a socialist agenda. We are promoting and continue to promote a socially sensitive agenda for the American people to make sure that they have healthcare.

Medicare was called a socialist program, Madam Speaker, when it was adopted. That is a program that millions and millions of Americans rely on and have been brought out of poverty. Medicare was called a socialist program when it was adopted. That program, combined with Social Security, has millions of Americans having a sense of security, a sense of independence, a sense that they are not going to fall through the cracks.

So we ought not to be debating, I say, Madam Speaker, this phony shibboleth of socialism.

The minimum wage is simply saying, in America, we value people who work, and we want to ensure that people who work are not living in poverty and have some ability to support themselves and their families in a decent way. We passed that bill today. We are proud of passing that bill.

Very frankly, for 10 years of Republican control of the House of Representatives, we pleaded with them to bring a minimum wage bill of whatever number to the floor, and they didn't

bring a single cent raise in a decade, the longest time since the minimum wage was adopted in the 1930s, to make sure that Americans were lifted out of the deepest recession that this country has ever had.

So I say to my friend, we have done a lot. I wish the Senate would move it.

Let me close in terms of this response. I am very proud of this. We have passed 10 appropriations bills out of 12, the most since 2006.

Now, in 2006, the Republicans were in charge. I don't refer to the gentleman personally, but the Republicans were in charge, and they didn't bring the Labor-Health bill to the floor. I am not sure why, but I had offered a minimum wage increase in that bill, in the Labor-Health Subcommittee, and they never brought it to the floor.

It passed in committee, even though the Republicans were in charge and the majority of Members in the committee were Republicans. That minimum wage increase passed, but they refused to bring it to the floor. I can only conclude that they are not for increasing the minimum wage.

We disagree with that position. We believe that in America, if you are working, playing by the rules, and making our economy grow, then you ought to be paid a wage that you can survive on and, better than that, live on.

And so I am proud of the legislation that we passed, and I am proud of the 10 appropriations bills, which, by the way, fund 96 percent of the government.

Our colleagues in the Senate, Madam Speaker, have not passed a single appropriations bill through committee, not one.

So we are doing our job, Madam Speaker, and we are addressing the issues of the American people.

I agree 100 percent with the minority, with the Republican whip that we need to deal with drug pricing. We have pledged to do that. We are working together. The President says he wants to do that. Hopefully, we can get to a consensus.

I agree with the gentleman from Louisiana, Madam Speaker, we haven't gotten there yet. Hopefully, we can get there. Hopefully, we can strengthen the Affordable Care Act so that people will have the confidence that it will be available to them.

I know that was a relatively—maybe not relatively—a long answer, but I think we have done a lot of work. I am very proud of the 6 months that we have had.

We spent the first 35 days trying to open up the government. This is the first Congress in the history of the United States in which the government was shut down when the new Congress started. It has been shut down before, but this was the first time when we started. It took us 35 days to get it open. And when we did get it open, we started on an agenda of which I am proud.

Do we have more work to do? We do. Madam Speaker, we intend to continue on an agenda that does that work.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, there is clearly a lot to cover there. Let's start with the big debate, and that is what the gentleman alluded to, and that is government control versus freedom, because that is going to be the debate over the next year where there is already a Presidential primary debate process going on.

When you see every candidate for President on one side saying that they want to give free healthcare benefits to people who are here illegally, yet many of them embrace a plan that would literally end private insurance for families that enjoy the healthcare plans they have in the private marketplace, the Medicare for All proposal, there are so many different areas where we see this debate about government control versus freedom.

And, yes, to the gentleman, there are some on his side who refer to themselves as socialist Democrats. And so if they want to call themselves that, then at least own the things that go with socialism and recognize the damage that is done by socialism.

To think that any one party has some kind of ownership of capitalism in the free market system, I would be more than happy to see us engage in a debate about capitalism, because there are some on the other side that attack it on a regular basis.

But if you look at how Republican policies have gotten us to where we are with the most booming economy in the world, our economy is the envy of the world. People's wages are rising. Low-income people, in fact, are benefiting the most. And we are seeing the increase in the rebuilding of our middle class that was evaporating.

For 8 years in a row under the previous administration, every single quarter, our economy had less than 2 percent growth. The economy wasn't even that bad during the Great Depression that the gentleman cited.

So when we came in with the Republican majority and the Republican President, we were able to pass actual policies like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, like reversing so many of the radical regulations that we saw that had nothing to do with health and safety but had to do with carrying out an agenda to shut down industries in this country like the fossil fuel industry and so many others that are providing not only jobs, lower carbon emission, dominance in the world, helping our friends around the world, and lowering energy prices for families in America.

Those policies have actually been increasing wages for lower income people, not government-controlled prices as passed today where the government is going to try to come in and set artificial rates for what people ought to make as opposed to letting this great market that is working incredibly well raise wages for families.

We have seen the studies. We have seen the University of Washington

study, which was cited today, where we can look at real examples of communities that have had artificially high minimum wages, like Seattle, where they put in place a \$15 minimum wage. It sounds great. The government is going to set everybody's rates and tell everybody how much they are going to make, and what it resulted in is over 5 million hours lost for workers.

In fact, the lower income families in Seattle were hurt the most by that policy by a margin of 3 to 1. It damages low-income families.

Again, it might sound good that the government is going to tell everyone what they can make, but most of us who believe in the free market system reject that idea that we should set policies that are crushing jobs in America.

There is a bar in New York that was closed because of the increase in the minimum wage that one of our colleagues used to work at. It was closed because of an artificially set price, minimum wage, in the city of New York.

So when you look at jobs that are fleeing some communities and going to other communities, that ought to tell you how those policies are working.

But we have a growing economy, not because we had a lot of government control out of Washington, but, in fact, because we allowed freedom. We allowed people to keep more of what they earned. We allowed people to make their own choices. And it is a successful formula. We want to see more of it.

Now, if we can get into the issue of the harassment agenda, the subpoenas, the finding people in contempt, let's talk about Secretary Ross and the work that was done to comply with the committee's request.

If you look, and this is reading from a document sent by Secretary Ross and Attorney General Barr to the committee, it says:

The Department's engagement with the committee is a good faith accommodation process, rooted in the separation of powers. As part of that process, both Departments have made multiple witnesses available for voluntary, transcribed interviews and have produced more than 30,000 pages of documents to the committee.

Before the committee abruptly and prematurely terminated the accommodation process last month, the Department of Justice intended to provide a significant number of additional documents identified as responsive to the committee's subpoena.

They go on to talk about how they were complying with the committee, producing over 30,000 pages of documents just related to the Census. And then the committee abruptly decides they just want to hold him in contempt because there were some documents they wanted that the Attorney General would have actually broken the law if he turned them over.

So you saw a Department complying and going overboard to ensure that the separation of powers and the oversight that existed would continue.

Of course, when we were in the majority and the previous administration

of the other party was there, we had a lot of oversight hearings, exercising our Article I powers as we all should, but we didn't go week after week.

Just this week alone, there was a resolution condemning the President's tweets, an impeachment resolution, a resolution to hold two Cabinet Secretaries in contempt, and three resolutions of disapproval on policy. That was just this week.

The American people don't want to see us fighting over power. They want to see us fighting for their needs, the needs of hardworking families.

Again, I identified so many things.

Just to finish up on the resolution that was discussed earlier, the gentleman said we need to respond to things that violate this country's principles.

First of all, we reject racism wholeheartedly. We reject hate. We reject anti-Semitism.

There have been comments made by Members of the gentleman's party that have not been addressed on this floor that violate those principles.

We can all bring resolutions broadly stating things, but if the intention is to identify people by name, it is, to us, rather conspicuous that, when people of the other party say those things, they are not addressed on this floor by name. And so we know that happened.

Again, the way that the Speaker violated the rules of the House, and then a vote was brought to this floor to basically say that those rules don't apply to the Speaker.

If the rules don't apply to the Speaker, then who do they apply to? They ought to apply to all of us equally.

If any of us break the rules of the House and are called out on it and are found by the Chair to be in violation of the rules, then we ought to accept that. We ought not have the vote on the House floor to say, well, the rules apply to some people, but not everybody.

If the rules are in place, they ought to be in place to be enforced equally, not that some in power have an exemption and have a free pass to break those rules.

So if we are going to talk about what we reject, let's be fair and equal about it.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to go back to this free market and the minimum wage.

The gentleman, Madam Speaker, projects that: Let the free market operate.

We do not allow employers to hire people under a certain age because we want to protect children. I suppose that is interfering with the free market because we know that, throughout the world, we have 8-, 9-, and 10-year-old children being asked to work 10-, 12-, 14-hour days at rudimentary tasks.

□ 1245

Perhaps he believes that we ought to have people work 80, 90 hours a week trying to manage their families and their lives and not have a 40-hour week because of the free market. After all, individuals can decide whether they are going to work 80 or 90 hours a week. We have known that in our history.

Perhaps we ought to have a free market that doesn't worry about whether workers are safe on the job. Whether it is in a mine or a factory, we require places to be safe so that we can protect workers.

We don't believe that undermines the free market system. We think that improves the free market system. So there are rules.

Mr. SCALISE. If I could interject, we share that. That is not an us versus them issue. We agree with those. Obviously, there are some that we disagree with. The ones that the gentleman mentioned are things that we agree with.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, my point to the gentleman is, yes, we think people ought to be paid a decent wage, and we know there are people in our workplace and in our community who have no bargaining power whatsoever. They don't have fancy college educations, and they don't have fancy skills, but they are needed in our economy. They are needed to do things that the community needs done. When you go to a hotel, you hope that bed is made up. You hope the bathrooms are clean. When you go to the grocery store, you hope that the peas and corn have been picked.

We believe that those folks are necessary for our community and need to be paid a decent wage, just as we think they need to be safe. I am glad the gentleman agrees on that. I thought he did.

But my point, Madam Speaker, is that there is an analogy here to safety, to hours, to working conditions, and yes, to wages.

I don't know that the party that the gentleman represents has ever offered an increase in the minimum wage. I am going to check on that. I don't know. Since I have been here, they have not. It has always been us offering the increase.

President George Bush, to his credit, signed the Fair Minimum Wage Act in 2007, which was still less than it was in 1968. As a matter of fact, it is 40 percent less today than it was in 1968. Workers are being paid 40 percent less.

Lastly, I will say, Madam Speaker, one thing our party agrees with is that men and women have a right to come together and bargain collectively for their wages, their working conditions, and their benefits. They need to be on some degree of parity because we know that with big employers, and even small employers, individuals are not on parity. They either do this or don't,

and if there are no rules, then people are subjected, in my view and in my observation, to unfair tactics that they have no defense against other than us.

I say to my friend, I think he and I agree on hours, hopefully, the age at which people can work certain hours, and on safety conditions in workplaces. I am not sure about bargaining collectively in unions. I think they are critical to the creation of a middle class and the maintenance of a strong middle class. We also very strongly believe in the free market system.

I could pick out one or two of your Members who may have some differences of agreement. I won't mention any names, but I can think of some names on the gentleman's side of the aisle. I am sure the gentleman can as well and, in fact, does disagree, from his perspective, with some people on my side of the aisle. But we intend to continue to be very supportive of building jobs.

My friend knows that I have an agenda. I call it Make It In America. It is about growing jobs, growing enterprises, helping entrepreneurs, and making sure that people have good wages and a good future through the free enterprise system.

Mr. SCALISE. Clearly, Madam Speaker, if we talk about what makes this country great, it is the freedoms and the economic success that we have seen for families, businesses, and everybody. It is the reason people come here from all around the world. What we have done to create this great free market system has unleashed potential for anybody to come here and be anything they want to be.

I have been proud to help pass policies that have actually increased wages for families not through government price controls but through economic growth and through giving people more of their money back instead of their having to come to Washington to get an amount or come to a union boss to get the amount that they can earn. They can actually go do it on their own.

It is playing out in reality, not in theory, but in reality, where we are seeing the lowest-income workers benefiting the most from our policies of cutting taxes, not by telling people how much they can make but by letting them go out and make even more on their own.

They are doing it. It is the lower-income people who are benefiting the most from those policies. We ought to encourage more of that.

The unemployment rate amongst African Americans and Hispanics is at the lowest rate in our country's history not through government controls but by cutting taxes and letting them have more of their money, by seeing businesses grow, and by hiring more people.

We are seeing more job openings today than there are people looking for work. That is what is so exciting.

We see that women-owned businesses are up 20 percent over the last few

years because of these conservative policies that I have helped pass.

Yes, when I support right-to-work laws, if a person wants to go work for a company that happens to be in a union-based industry or a union-based State, and they say they don't want dues forced out of their paychecks, to give dues to somebody who believes in things that they don't agree with, they shouldn't be forced to do that. In many places, they are.

I want more individual freedom. I want more ability for people to go out and live that American Dream, to start up their own business in their garage and then one day maybe become a billionaire because there was that opportunity provided to them, not our telling them how much they can make, but our allowing them, in a safe way, the ability to go be the best they can be.

I will use an example because I know the gentleman and I share the belief that people need to be safe in the workplace, and we need to do all we can to ensure that. Look at deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, which is based out of parts of my district. Port Fourchon in Louisiana is the hub of all that deepwater drilling that we saw.

There was the horrible tragedy, the Deepwater Horizon. People died, and the environment was polluted. That was done not because there weren't enough laws in place but because a company broke the laws. A company went around those safety standards that we put in place.

We went and hammered them. We fined them. I passed a bill out of this House in a very bipartisan way called the RESTORE Act that ensured that they pay billions of dollars back to fix the damage that they had done and to hold that company accountable for what they had done. Its purpose was not to shut the whole industry down, because every other company that was out there had done things the right way.

What we saw from the previous administration was a rule that came out called the Well Control Rule that wasn't rooted in safety. After industry did an even better job to put well containment in place so that, if something like that ever happened again, they could quickly move to stop it, instead of government working to help expedite that process, government sat back and waited until industry came up with a better way to solve that problem on their own. Then, it came up with a rule that actually would have undermined the new safety standards they put in place. It would have made it difficult because Washington would have been able to tell them how to manage a well in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico instead of understanding that pressure changes instantly and that they have to be able to respond to it.

Government was setting a standard that would have undermined safety. Luckily, we reversed that Obama-era rule that would have made things less safe.

Let's not think that every regulation is about increasing safety. We ought to stand together to support safety standards and strengthen them where we can. There may be rules and regulations that undermine safety because some people just don't want drilling for oil, and some people support the Green New Deal kind of approaches that I and many don't. But don't try to undermine safety just to shut an industry down because people don't believe in it.

After September 11, our government came together in many ways, politically and policy-wise, to address what had happened. We didn't shut down the entire airline industry. We made safety standards at airports better so that people who get on a plane feel more comfortable that somebody doesn't have box cutters, guns, or knives that can undermine the safety of those people and of our country. Then, we got planes back up and running very quickly.

Safety standards are something we both share. But when government gets in the way just because they don't agree with what somebody is doing, that is a different story. That is the kind of government control versus freedom battle that we are seeing play out and will continue seeing play out, I am sure, over the next year and a half between now and next November.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we could go another many minutes, but I am going to comment on one of the things the gentleman said about the person who wanted to go to work for a company but didn't want to join the union and right-to-work. The probability is the reason you wanted to work for that company was because the wages were good, the benefits were good, and safety conditions were good, which the union got, but he or she doesn't want to pay dues to the union. They don't have to join the union; they have to pay dues to the union.

I think it is somewhat ironic but demonstrative that when the gentleman speaks of safety regulations, very frankly, Republicans spent a lot of time, when they were in charge, passing reductions of regulations that we think undermine the safety of consumers, workers, and individuals.

We have a disagreement on that, Madam Speaker, but that is what we believe, and that is the tension here. We represent, I think, an attitude that we need to make sure that everybody plays by the rules so that people are safe.

In any event, we will discuss that further, I am sure, in the coming days, weeks, and maybe years.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I respect our ability to have these disagreements but, again, to disagree in a civil way where we can at least talk about the policy and keep it focused that way and, hopefully, one day address those areas of concern that we

both share and that we can both solve working together.

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

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Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow; and, further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FRANKEL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, pensions have afforded millions of middle-class Americans the opportunity to enjoy their golden years with economic peace of mind.

Congress did not ensure that security for all retirees when it passed the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act in December 2014, attaching it to unrelated, must-pass legislation.

For the past 5 years, I have listened to the anxiety of thousands of retirees from Ohio and across our Nation, and I have fought for a better solution for them.

Next week, this body will consider the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, better known as the Butch Lewis Act. This bill is long overdue and a great step toward restoring economic security for over 1,300,000 pensioners in our country.

Congress can provide relief for these 1.3 million workers and retirees in plans running out of money through no fault of the workers. Many of these hardworking individuals worked 30 years or more but now, every day, they live with economic uncertainty, some facing drastic cuts, as much as 70 percent, to their earned pensions. Many of these individuals are too old to return to the workforce. This is criminal.

Madam Speaker, this Congress should improve our constituents' lives. It is with great anticipation that next week we offer a glimmer of hope for millions of pensioners caught far out on the ledge of economic disaster. The Butch Lewis Act is overdue and a reasonable solution to address this multi-employer pension crisis and end the economic terror that affects these retirees' lives.

□ 1300

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Clyde Owen of Moses Lake, Washington, an individual who dedicated his life to serving the country and improving his community before passing on July 1, at the age of 100.

Clyde was a pilot during World War II and the only member of his air crew to escape enemy fire during the landing at Anzio in 1943. Surviving these adversities, he continued to serve in the Air Force, traveling the world before settling in Moses Lake in 1961. There, he served as the last commander of the Larson Air Force Base, overseeing crucial tanker and bomber fleets before its closure in 1966.

Far from ready to retire, he went on to work as the first executive director for the Port of Moses Lake, working to foster economic development and create opportunity for the people of central Washington.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Clyde's long life of service and his commitment to the United States and to the people of Moses Lake.

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to, today, recognize the historic feat from a team of boys aged 11 to 13 in my district.

The Roberto Clemente Little League of Humboldt Park in Chicago made history on Monday, July 15, by becoming Illinois champions and advancing to the regionals. They are the first Little League team from Humboldt Park to ever qualify and represent the city and the State of Illinois. It is exciting to know that these kids have a real chance of making it to the Little League World Series.

As a father, grandfather, and an avid baseball fan, their achievement makes me extremely proud. They are showing us the power of sports and community, and I would like to congratulate them, their coaches, and their families, for their determination.

The Roberto Clemente Little League of Humboldt Park is bringing a lot of joy and pride to the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Illinois, and they are just getting started.

Go Roberto Clemente Little Leaguers.

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(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 honor Major General Mark Berry, commander of the Arkansas National Guard. After a long career of dedicated service, Major General Berry is retiring on August 10, 2019.

He first assumed duties as the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard on January 13, 2015. Prior to this post, Major General Berry was the A-4 assistant to the director of the Air National Guard in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to his highly decorated career, Major General Berry is a man who goes out of his way to protect and to serve his fellow countrymen. Most recently, Major Berry provided critical immediate assistance when flooding devastated many parts of Arkansas.

I had the opportunity to work side by side with him during flood relief efforts and saw how he worked around the clock to save lives and to protect homes and businesses. He is a great leader, a great friend, and, above all, a great American.

I thank Major General Berry for his service and wish him all the best in retirement.

#### IN SOLEMN MEMORY OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE AURORA THEATER SHOOTING

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of the 12 lives lost and the many lives changed forever 7 years ago in the Aurora theater shooting.

Since then, I have come to know many of the victims' families, and I stand in awe of their courage and strength. Many have become stewards in our community, and their example is an inspiration to us all, people like State Representative Tom Sullivan, who honors his son's life by serving in the Colorado State Legislature and fighting every day for commonsense gun violence prevention, or Sandy and Lonnie Phillips, who lost their daughter and have spent their days since advocating for survivors around the country.

Today, my only wish is to tell them that we haven't forgotten.

Looking at this Chamber, it may seem as if we have moved on. In the 7 years since, little has changed. Our country is no safer. We disagree about how to solve the problem, but we do agree that there is a problem. There is a public health crisis in our country, and it doesn't matter if you live in a red or blue district.

I stand here today, committed to making a change, committed to showing families in our community that just because time has passed, our urgency to addressing gun violence has not.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF STENNIS SPACE CENTER TEAM

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, rockets tested at the Mississippi Test Facility, now known as the Stennis Space Center, carried Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins high above the Earth's atmosphere.

These brave Americans were aided by the technical and engineering expertise of Mississippi scientists and engineers. The men and women at the Stennis Space Center conducted 2,475 man-years of rocket engine testing to ensure that the astronauts successfully carried American ingenuity toward the stars and returned home safely to a proud nation.

Following the successful mission, the Stennis Space Center team continued to support the Apollo program by performing tests on the Saturn V rockets and continues today to support NASA in our exploration of space.

As a Mississippian, I join the rest of our States as we remember the crucial role we played in this historic accomplishment of our great Nation.

#### HONORING BETSY BOSSART FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, all of us who serve in this House are deeply indebted to our hardworking staff who enable us to serve our constituents and meet the rigorous demands of this job.

In particular, all of us are grateful for our district directors, as we are for all of our staff. But our district directors are "us" for so many instances, for so many constituents, and for so many different events.

They represent us when we cannot be there, when we are here in Washington. They are our eyes and ears on the ground when we are here. They are the angels on our shoulders who remind us that everything we do on a national level needs to benefit our constituents back home.

For the past 30 years, I have been blessed—the Fifth Congressional District has been blessed—to be a colleague of Betsy Bossart.

I love Betsy Bossart, and my constituents love Betsy Bossart.

Before she served as my district director, she was my administrative assistant, the jack of all trades who made sure my office ran smoothly, and served as one of my chief advisers.

Betsy joined my staff on March 3, 1989, 30 years ago, and until she retired—sadly, from my perspective—last month, she served me, the people of the Fifth District, and our country every day.

With her departure, my office—and, indeed, this House—is diminished by the end of her extraordinary service.

Betsy gave her time and energy selflessly for the people of the Fifth District, working many, many late nights, many weekends, and long days.

She has taken meetings with every organization and visited nearly every school and medical facility and government office in the counties I represent.

Betsy Bossart has been so successful as my district director because she is an excellent listener and has a deep wellspring of empathy for people.

She has been a role model, Madam Speaker, for others on my staff and a champion, an advocate for young people coming into public service and waiting to make differences in their communities and in their country.

She has been an unsung hero of my team for three decades.

It is largely because of Betsy's hard work behind the scenes that we are able to organize the Rebuilding Together program—formerly known as Christmas in April—in all five counties in our district. It is a day of service that brings people from all walks of life together to repair homes, revitalize communities, and help our neighbors.

Because of Betsy's efforts, we have the annual Fifth District Women's Luncheon, dedicated to advancing women's equality and raising awareness of women leaders in the Fifth District and our country.

Because of her, we have robust support for the network of early childhood centers in Maryland named in memory of my wife, Judy, who had a wonderful relationship with Betsy as well.

Maryland's Judy Centers will always be a major part of Betsy's legacy, and the thousands of children and families who benefited from their services may not know Betsy or what she did to make the Judy Centers possible, but they will always owe her and her colleagues who partnered with her on that effort a debt of gratitude.

Along with her friend and my friend, Betty Richardson—another longtime member of my team, who has since retired but remains very active in my district—as partners, Betty and Betsy were also instrumental in launching the annual Fifth District Black History Breakfast, now in its 38th year.

All the young people who participate in the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby have Betsy to thank for being able to use the Capitol Grounds.

Madam Speaker, I will look back with many, many, many fond memories of my time working with Betsy Bossart, my friend, my colleague, my coworker, whom I had the opportunity to work with to advance the interest of our district.

We traveled together to South Africa and met with Nelson Mandela, discussing the important issue of racial justice and unity through history and healing.

We have attended so many events together across Prince George's County and southern Maryland, making sure that every one of our constituent's voices is heard loudly and clearly in Congress.

As majority leader and Democratic whip over the past 16 years, I have had to balance service to our district with my responsibilities to our Caucus and to our country. Betsy has spent every single day of that time making sure that our district always comes first.

I will miss Betsy. I expect to remain her friend throughout my life, but I will miss her daily advice and expertise, though I am relieved that she will always be just a phone call away.

As she retires, Madam Speaker, to spend more time with her husband and their family in Pennsylvania, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Betsy Bossart for 30 dedicated years, yes, to me, but, more importantly, to our constituents, to our State, and to our country.

Madam Speaker, were I to speak another 2 hours—as some fear—I could not thank Betsy Bossart enough.

God bless Betsy Bossart, a wonderful friend, a wonderful American.

#### SUPPORT MILITARY SURVIVING SPOUSES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is legislative day 5 since House Democrats subverted the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act from being a standalone bill.

I am grateful that 86 percent of Congress, 371 Members, have cosponsored this legislation, who were recruited by determined widows in the veterans service organizations.

As Minority Whip STEVE SCALISE noted on the floor last week:

Here is a bill that can quickly get to the President's desk, and it gets included in other pieces of legislation that might come months away. But here is a bill where a Member worked in good faith under the rules that were created, and it was unfortunate that the rule to bring the NDAA bill to the floor turned off the Consensus Calendar specifically for that bill, that one bill, which happened to be the first bill that met that requirement.

We should work together, bipartisan, to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act up for a standalone to eliminate the widow's tax.

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

□ 1315

#### HELP LIMIT CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, the way we finance campaigns in this country is a true threat to our democracy. This structure is a leading cause

of our Nation's political paralysis and voter apathy.

In the book "Dark Money," Jane Mayer wrote: "In 2006, only 2 percent of 'outside' political spending came from 'social welfare' groups that hid their donors. In 2010, this number rose to 40 percent, masking hundreds of millions of dollars."

Since the 2010 Citizens United decision and related decisions, this number is even greater today. The massive amount of money flowing into our political system corrupts the political process and stymies effectiveness.

That is why I introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system. My amendment would eliminate political action committees and "dark money." Funding for a candidate or ballot measure would be limited to the use of a public financing system or donations given directly to the campaign by individual citizens. This would end much of the corruption in Washington.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do everything possible to help limit corruption in Washington, including supporting this legislation.

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), a former district judge.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD HUDSON INTO THE TEXAS NAVY

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. GOHMERT, for yielding.

I rise today to honor my dear friend, Congressman RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina.

Congressman HUDSON served as my chief of staff from 2006 to 2008 and is now forging his own path right here on Capitol Hill.

Some time ago, Congressman HUDSON gave me a hard time about other Members being recognized as "Honorary Texans" by Governor Abbott. Well, after speaking with the Governor, we have gone one step further with our recognition here today, and I am pleased to swear in Admiral Richard L. Hudson to the Texas Navy.

I will now read the certificate granting his commission:

"In the name and by the authority of The State of Texas to all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings. Know ye, that Richard Hudson is hereby commissioned an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto and with the duty of assisting in the preservation of the history, boundaries, water resources, and defense of the State.

"In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the

State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 10th day of May, 2019."

Signed: Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas.

I am now going to read the oath that Mr. Hudson will take as he takes this commission:

"I, Richard Hudson, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God."

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GOHMERT for yielding, and I thank Judge Carter for this incredible honor. The gentleman is a dear friend and someone I admire very much. His love for the State of Texas is unmatched.

This truly is an honor. I am proud to be a North Carolinian, but I do love the State of Texas.

I would first suggest that we should all remember that seven North Carolinians, if my recollection is correct, died defending the Alamo.

I also have family ties to Texas. My great uncle Joseph Wesley Humphrey was a deputy sheriff, a member of the Texas legislature, and county judge in Rains County, Texas.

Another great uncle, Reverend Daniel A. McRae, was a Methodist minister in San Augustine County, Texas. I believe that might even be in Mr. GOHMERT's district. And the church and the cemetery there is still named "McRae" after my great uncle.

So I do have family ties. I do love the State. I am deeply honored to receive this commission, honorary as it may be, and I will be proud to recite the oath:

I, RICHARD HUDSON, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Texas against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And I will remember the Alamo. So help me God.

Madam Speaker, I thank Judge Carter.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. HUDSON.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is wonderful to have a new admiral in the Texas Navy, and we welcome Congressman HUDSON to that role, that honorary role, in the Texas Navy.

And we are grateful to Judge Carter for his role in making that happen and to our great Governor Greg Abbott. I thank both the gentlemen.



It is nice to be able to do something that brings a smile. But I think, for Texans to ask that people remember the Alamo harkens back to feelings within us that freedom and liberty are something worth dying for. That is what all of those Texans did.

And with due deference to my friend from Tennessee, MARSHA BLACKBURN—yes, I know—we are grateful to Tennessee for their contribution at the Alamo and to Texas as well.

But those people had a choice: Were they going to run or were they going to stand for freedom, stand against despotism. And they chose to stand.

And here it is 163 years later, and we still remember, and we are still inspired. Liberty comes at great cost, and we are forever grateful to our God and to our predecessors who took such a stand against tyranny.

There is a lot of tyranny going on in the Middle East, and there will be until the end of time. But each of us has a responsibility to do what we can to help accommodate and protect those who can't help themselves.

That is why some of us are pro-life. But when it comes to life in the Middle East, it has been shocking now for years, under the previous administration, the people that were supported, the weapons that were provided to people that were called the “vetted moderate rebels” against the leader of Syria.

Yet we saw over and over again those so-called “vetted moderate rebels” were constantly allowing their weapons to be seized—there is some question whether they were actually turned over—to radical Islamists who hate Americans, who made clear, yeah, they are not crazy about some fellow Muslims, but they like them a whole lot better than they do the United States and Christians.

So it was tragic, in years prior, when our current U.N. general secretary was in charge of the refugee program at the U.N. and people were noticing, under the then head of the refugee program at the U.N., now general secretary—they were noticing that, gee, you are helping all these Muslims, which is wonderful, but there is a significant percentage in those areas, some areas there, that are being overrun by ISIS, where there are Christians and the Christians appear to be the target of genocide.

And it has been a long time since I read his quote, but in essence it was basically, well, those Christians are very important to those areas historically where they are, and so we think it is important to just let them stay in those areas.

Well, what Christians had found was, if they tried to go to the refugee camps where they were unwelcome and brutalized, they were lucky if they got out with their lives. But they weren't welcome.

And the head of the refugee program did nothing that we can find to accommodate Christians to the extent that

he was accommodating Muslims. I don't know if it was an innate bias, prejudice, bigotry that he had—maybe still has—or whether it was just sheer ignorance on his part, deciding to save some people and not save a big bulk of the Christians.

So they were being wiped out. There was a genocide going on.

I saw this story today by Edwin Mora. The title of the article is, “Hope Is Back: Trump Helps Save Christians, Yazidis in Iraq From Extinction.”

It goes on to say, “U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is helping bring Christians and Yazidis in Iraq back from the brink of extinction fomented by a genocidal campaign at the hands of the Islamic State, religious minority representatives declared this week at the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom convened by the Department of State.

“The U.S. Government has officially determined that ISIS committed genocide against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities during its reign of terror in the Middle East that began in 2014 . . . .”

Of course, that was when the Obama administration was in its heyday. Of course, we didn't realize how much the DOJ, FBI, and some of the Intel community had been weaponized and actually corrupted.

The article goes on, “Echoing Yazidis activists and a U.S.-based Syriac Catholic Iraqi priest who spoke to Breitbart News, a Chaldean Catholic priest from a parish in a Christian Iraqi town indicated that hope for the future along with security improvements have returned to religious minority communities devastated by ISIS, courtesy of the Trump administration efforts.

“Their comments came during the 3-day ministerial summit. . . .

“While delivering a speech during the event on Wednesday, Father Thabet Habib Youssef, a Chaldean Catholic priest from the town of Karamles in Iraq's Nineveh Province, thanked the Trump administration for its assistance.”

And this is what Father Youssef had to say:

“I wish to give thanks to the government of the United States for including us in this important conference and a special thanks to the administration of President Trump for his concern and commitment to the persecuted minority communities in Iraq.

“I can say this conference gives us hope. Our greatest fear in the early years was that the world would forget us. This conference tells us we are not forgotten.”

“Nearly half of the Christian families who fled Karamles, liberated by U.S. and local forces in November 2016, have returned, and Father Thabet expects many more to come back in the coming year.

“Although ISIS burned down the homes and churches in the Christian town, ‘We are determined to return and rebuild.’

“Today we have 45 percent of our families returned, and we hope in this next year we will see many more.”

“He went on to say that the Iraqi government needs to do more to bring about ‘real change and support for the protection, safety, and equal rights for the minority communities in Iraq.’

“The U.S.-funded nation-building efforts, coupled with”—and let me make myself clear on that, I'm talking about helping others build their nations—for those who claim that America is trying to build some hegemony, has imperialistic notions, as it always has—it just tells us they had terrible history teachers.

□ 1330

They are not intentionally spreading untruths. They are just ignorant. They don't know what the real truth is because the real truth is, we have never been an imperialistic nation. If we were, if we had been then English would be all that was spoken in France, and Germany, and Japan, and many other nations. That is not who we are. That is not who we have been.

We have given our most precious commodity, American lives, for another people's freedom.

Back to this article. It says: “The U.S.-funded nation-building efforts, coupled with assistance from the Catholic group Knights of Columbus and the government of Hungary, have rendered the town of Karamles a ‘story of success and we are optimistic it will survive’”, Father Thabet also said.

“Northern Iraq's Nineveh province is the historical homeland of Iraqi Christians and home to the largest concentration of religious minorities in the country.”

So it goes on and also talks about the help this has been to Yazidis.

And I note this week we had resolutions or amendments to condemn and express the majority of the House's sentiment that we shouldn't do anything to help in the effort against those who are killing, persecuting, and trying to commit a genocide against the Yazidis in Yemen. But, thankfully, that is only from the majority in the House. That is really unfortunate.

But there has also been news this week that we may have a very strong anti-Israeli resolution filed. Why not? The majority doesn't ever condemn specific anti-Semitism by Members here in the House; so why not file a resolution? We will see if it gets filed. That is the news.

That resolution supports the boycott against Israel; even though the people it supports, that resolution would support, would be the very people that have said they want Israel wiped off the map. They want no Israel from the river to the sea. They want it gone. They want a genocide. They want the Jews wiped out, and that is a goal.

It was a goal of Arafat. It is why, when Ehud Barak, as prime minister of Israel, when President Clinton was twisting his arm so strongly, basically

offered Arafat virtually everything he wanted.

I, personally, knowing biblical history, I think you had a case where, just as God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, initially, when Moses was asking to let his people go, I think Arafat's heart was hardened. He got basically everything he wanted, but he turned it all down.

If he had accepted it, it would have been basically impossible for Israel to defend itself under anything but nuclear means; no conventional way to defend Israel if Arafat had accepted that, what I would consider, outrageous proposal. But fortunately, he didn't accept it, and so Israel has been able to defend itself since then.

But the attacks are daily. They are ongoing. There is an ongoing effort by enemies of Israel that are being promoted by some Democrats, some in Congress, some outside of Congress. That is who they are supporting, people that are, every single day, smuggling rockets into Gaza, smuggling weapons, trying to smuggle weapons into Israel, and continuing to teach hatred, blind bigotry against the Jewish people, against Israel.

So I would be thrilled if that resolution did not get filed; but that is up to individuals in Congress. Everybody has a right to file whatever bill they think will be most helpful.

But I have looked for Scripture in the Bible that says, those who curse or seek to harm Israel will be blessed. And I just—it is just not there. So it causes me grave concern to think that we may have people in leadership positions in the United States, again, who really want to harm Israel. They want to divide it.

I know we have a growing group that don't believe anything in the Bible. But for those of us who do, when we are told that any nation that divides or attempts to divide Israel will bring down judgment on itself, that causes me great concern for the country for which I have taken an oath to defend repeatedly; as a member of the United States Army, as an Assistant District Attorney, as a District Judge, as a Chief Justice, and as a Member of Congress.

That oath means so much to me that I think it would be a good idea to be supportive of the Nation of Israel, and I am thrilled we have a President that is doing that.

Even though, reports I have heard from people that were there, he had Cabinet officials telling him he was going to start World War III if he recognized Jerusalem as the capital. A bit like some of the stories of Lincoln being told by every member of the Cabinet it would be a disaster if he finalized the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln knew it was right in his heart, and with every Cabinet member reportedly against him and arguing against it, he, in essence, said the ayes have it. He was the only one.

Here you had not all, but most of the Cabinet really hammering President

Trump not to recognize Jerusalem as the capital. He knew in his heart it was the right thing to do. He had said he would do it; he did it.

I know some can't find anything at all admirable about President Trump; they are so blinded by their hatred. But I think that is a pretty amazing thing that President Trump has done.

And now, to hear from Christians in the Middle East who were the objects of genocide, being wiped out, being killed, destroyed, taken off of the map completely, without much of anything helpful from the so-called United Nations, it is amazing what President Trump has done in that regard.

So when I hear friends across the aisle saying we have lost respect around the world, they are not seeing and hearing what I am. The last polls I saw were that, around the world, there is more respect for our President than the prior administration.

And the truth is, in respect, there is a little element of fear. You can not like somebody, but still respect them, and fear can be involved.

We have a reputation that is growing again, that we have a President that will do what he said. Sometimes he is talked out of taking steps, like bombing and killing 100 or more in Iran. But what we are seeing in Iran is amazing, because their economy is suffering dramatically, so much so you see them lashing out and trying to, whether it is by attacking ships, trying to use whatever power they can. The pressure is intensifying.

And I would humbly submit, this will not be a President who, in response to the biggest supporter of terrorism in world history, sends them pallets full of billions and billions of dollars in cash to help the biggest supporter of terrorism, who has killed and been responsible for the deaths of more American military than anybody else in recent decades.

So they can say what they want about our President. He is doing amazing work.

And it is interesting, I keep hearing this term "racist" and the President keeps talking about American citizens. Well, until recent days, it has never been racist to talk about American citizens.

In fact, going back again to the comment of Benjamin Franklin after the Constitutional Convention: "It's a republic, if you can keep it."

He knew that republics, the very few that have been established, that just means they elect representatives. It is not the totally democratic governing that was, for example, in Athens, as a city state. They had a democracy.

And what historians have seen, clearly, is that when it is a true democracy, where everybody participates—they had jurors, they would have 501 jurors in just a court case. And what that would often lead to what would be mob action. I mean, people get stirred up, and they end up coming out with a sentence like they did for Socrates, that

was far beyond anything appropriate whatsoever. You take an innocent man like that and have him put to death simply because you had too many jurors that got each other worked up.

So that is where Rome made a great stride forward. They said, you know what? There were problems. It was a good idea, but there were problems with a complete democracy, where everybody participates in all governing decisions, except jurors, and that is 501.

But Rome figured out, we need a representative form of government; so it has parts of it that are democracies, and in part it is a representative government, so it is a republic. And until Caesar crossed the Rubicon and made it into a virtual dictatorship—of course, that didn't last long because as, Mark Antony said:

Brutus says he was ambitious, and Brutus is an honorable man. So are they all, all honorable men.

There was trouble in the Roman empire. But they began to have a flood of people that were not Roman citizens. They lost their power. They had begun bread and circuses; gave away way too much in what was considered welfare of that day, bread and circuses.

And, as I recall, it was even Caesar that decided maybe we are corrupting people by providing this form of welfare and entertainment. But by that point, it was too late to rein it in and, for all of these factors, and others coming into play, people crossing the borders and taking a toll, the Roman Empire was eventually lost.

No country is going to last forever. I love this country. I have offered to die for this country. That is what you do when you sign up and take an oath in the U.S. military.

But when people begin not to appreciate the good things that their nation does and is doing, has done, and they build up hatred toward their own nation, you really are on the downhill slide and you are moving ever closer to the dustbin of history. Eventually every country is going to get there.

But our goal in this body should be to perpetuate this little experiment in self-government, the best ever contrived. Keep it going as long as possible. Don't let it die on our watch. But it is in trouble.

And as we have bills, I don't know anybody on this entire House floor, either party, who is against standing behind and helping those incredible American heroes of 9/11 and the days following. We are all for that.

□ 1345

But then we have people in the majority who see an opportunity. Instead of doing what we normally do and have an authorization for 5 years and 5 years extend 10 years, we had a bill that was extended to 2092.

There will not be a firefighter or policeman who is alive anywhere close to 2092, first responder that was there during 9/11 and doing these heroic works. So why would they choose 2092?

Well, the saying in Washington is no matter how cynical you get, it is never enough to catch up. But you go by what we have seen.

People in this body often, and it has happened on both sides of the aisle, like to get a bill, especially with money, get it extended out as far as possible, way beyond the existence of people for whom it is dedicated, and then when those people eventually pass away, you will see an effort to come in here and say, wow, we had all this money that we have passed overwhelmingly, and now the people aren't there that it was originally meant for, so let's start giving this money to other people, people that we want to curry favor with.

That is not the way it is supposed to go. I voted for it out of respect for our heroes, but for goodness' sake, 2092, seriously? How could anybody with a straight face say: Oh, if you are not for paying out billions and billions of dollars in 2091 to 2092, then you must hate the first responders of 9/11? That is ridiculous.

They have inspired me from that time, and in my hometown in east Texas and other towns all over east Texas, all the same thing. People lined up to give blood.

The first time I went, they said: There is hours and hours of wait to give blood for people in New York so we would ask that you come back tomorrow.

You couldn't even get in. That was true all over east Texas and all over the country. People cared deeply about what they had seen happen. We were under attack from outside. There were no hyphenated Americans. We were all just Americans wanting to help each other and help those who had been harmed.

So I hope that the Senate will take a look at that and be able to be more responsible so that the 9/11 fund will truly be for the people who the 9/11 fund says it is supposed to be for.

We are loading up future generations with so much debt. That alone could be enough to bring down our country. It is time to become responsible.

And I know across the aisle we have had these hearings on the bills, the Equality Act, for example, and I understand the sentiment behind it is to try to avoid any type of discomfort, uncomfortable feelings by anybody because of their chosen gender.

But as we brought out at our hearings before the Equality Act was passed in committee and here on the floor, there is a danger, and it is not about making people a little uncomfortable because they are biologically male but they want to go to a women's restroom.

As a former felony judge, I have heard the testimony about the trauma. I have seen the effects of sexual assault on women. I have read and understand that women who are victims of sexual assault have three to four times more occurrence of PTSD.

There are different explanations as to why they have so much higher rate of PTSD than even our soldiers in combat, but also that a trigger for reliving the horrors, the awful crime against them and their person is to be in a small, confined area and have someone of the opposite sex come in. We were laughed at and belittled when we brought up that concern.

The story was contained in another story. It was about a British leader who was pushing for transgender bathrooms. It is now under criminal investigation or charges.

But this was a story I missed back in February: "A trans 'woman'"—meaning biological man but considered himself, herself, whatever you want to say, to be a woman—"was allowed to walk free from Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court in Scotland after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl in a supermarket restroom.

"The attacker, whose name is given as Katie Dolatowski, waited for the young victim to come out of a toilet cubicle at Morrisons supermarket . . . then grabbed her by the face and forced her back inside.

"Dolatowski told the girl to remove her trousers and warned that a man outside would kill her mother . . . but she fought back, striking the pedophile in the face, belly, and crotch and tearing away to her father and siblings outside.

"Dolatowski had attempted to photograph a 12-year-old as she urinated at another supermarket a month prior . . . but Judge James Williamson decided not to send the sex offender to prison, instead handing down a tagging order and community service order. . . . The girl's mother was horrified, saying she felt 'very, very let down' and that she did not have any confidence whatsoever that Dolatowski will not go out and do something equally as bad or worse."

It is important to still discuss this because the Senate hasn't taken it up, and I hope they won't take it up because of the problems of the so-called, misnamed Equality Act. It is not equality for female sexual assault victims, that is for sure.

But then it contained another reference: "Girl Guides"—it is like Girl Scouts—"Expels Leaders Who Opposed Trans Shower-Sharing Policies.

And this insert says: Two Girl Guides leaders were expelled after they opposed "new rules which compel units to let transgender-identifying males share showers and other facilities with girls as young as 5."

There are other references like: Allegedly transgender prisoner gets life after raping two women, sexually assaulting inmates in female jail.

Another: Mother arrested in front of her children for calling a trans activist a man; said Kate Scottow was arrested for calling a trans activist a man online and a judge has banned her from referencing their former male identity.

So there was a time when people could say hurtful things in America,

but as we see with any declining society—not declining in goods and services, but declining in morality and as a society. We see it in L.A.

The most so-called liberated and liberal leaders of cities in America seem to have more homelessness, more defecation on the streets, more pollution.

Where are all the green activists, by the way? I mean, these people are polluting like crazy, and they are out there with signs picketing everywhere else, but for some reason they don't seem to be bothered by the destruction of an orderly society.

You go back to some of the great city-states, one of their big problems was sewage. And if you have too much homelessness, you encourage it, bless it, then it can cause problems for any society.

But that also brings us to our southern border, the continued expressions from this body about wanting to get rid of any enforcement of our border and refusing, in the \$4.6 billion that was passed out of this House, not one dime for detention beds, not one dime to help the Border Patrol do their job to secure the border, not one dime to help build a wall barrier where we need it, when we basically, because of liberals who may mean well, but they basically turned over our southern border to drug cartels.

Some of the most evil people in the world, these drug cartels, and we are not going to enforce our border. That message from the majority has gone out over and over again, and what it does, as the Border Patrol will tell you if you go down there as often as I have: Every time one of you guys in Congress talk about amnesty, legalization, not enforcing the border, any of those things, we get surges.

And they will also tell you, and I have seen it for myself, the drug cartels control everybody, when and where they cross the border, and they will send groups. The Border Patrol know when they send a group in the middle of the night, they have to stand there and go through in-processing all these people, asking them their questions.

And despite what some of our colleagues across the aisle have said, these are sympathetic border patrolmen. I have seen it over and over again. I have seen hundreds of very sympathetic border patrolmen, but they are at their wits end.

An article here from Michaela Ross today talking about "Sick, Exhausted Border Agents Stoke Exodus Fear in Migrant Surge," the migrants, the illegal aliens coming in.

I have been castigated for referring to them as "aliens," like they are from some other planet; and I had to remind my colleagues the very bill that they were supporting referred to them as aliens, and they were a little embarrassed because they didn't realize they referred to them as aliens. They thought it was just mean-spirited Republicans.

It is kind of interesting when you see that kind of thing, but it is a tragedy,

and it is a humanitarian crisis on our southern border. And it is no longer just a humanitarian crisis for those who are pouring over our border illegally. They are taking their toll on the border patrolmen. Some have suspected that: Gee, maybe that is a strategy of the Democratic Party.

You keep talking about amnesty, about getting rid of border enforcement, which will encourage more and more people to come in.

You keep claiming that people, no matter whether they came in illegally or legally, should be allowed to vote and keep encouraging people in.

You refuse to give a dime for border enforcement. You refuse to give a dime for beds to house people who are pouring in illegally for what they need to be able to detain people that commit criminal acts in coming into the country.

You continue to talk about doing away with any criminality to violating the law and more people come in.

You devastate those officers who have taken an oath to defend our border and our Constitution, and they are already having recruiting problems.

Why would somebody want to come work where you have got a major party of the two in the country that castigates you at every turn, says you can't or won't protect babies, children, you do not care, you are mean, you are evil, when you are out there doing everything you can, and you are being harassed, not being given what you need?

And then we had this bill this week in Judiciary talking about it was going to add millions and millions and millions of dollars of requirements for the Border Patrol to have to follow, lest they be pursued with some kind of charge or allegation, and yet not give them a dime to do those jobs, knowing that the result will be more and more people flooding in, more and more humanitarian crisis. Then you blame the humanitarian crisis on those who are trying to secure our Nation.

□ 1400

Then you get an allowance for all of those people who have poured in illegally, and many of them don't speak English. They don't know what is going on. They have never been educated on how you sustain a self-governing country.

All I can figure, the assessment has to have been made, yes, it will have our country in chaos for a little while, and we will have to take away some freedoms because of all the chaos, but, as Democrats have said, that will end the Republican Party nationally, as the Democrats were able to do in California with 2 or 3 million pouring in and voting that had come in illegally after the amnesty in 1986.

Actually, after 1986, when they were given amnesty, now it is legal for them to vote, and that changed California into a very Democratic State.

And there is an assessment: We can do that for the Nation and eliminate

the Republican Party as having any kind of viability. And then once we do that, even though it has taken quite a toll on the country, we will get control back again. We will rein in the chaos, and the Republicans will be gone and we will be a one-party country.

Somebody must have made that kind of assessment to be pushing the kind of bills that they are.

We cannot allow that chaos to occur and to build, because it wasn't just Ronald Reagan, but historians throughout time have noted, once you have a country that has had great freedom and it loses that freedom, it doesn't come back. Reagan said not in that generation, but I have trouble finding where it ever came back once a nation of freedom lost it. That is a real potential if we don't get things under control.

I think God has blessed this country more than any country. I know Solomon's Israel was just an absolutely amazing place, but there is no place that has ever had our opportunities, our individual freedoms, our individual assets, never in the history of the world.

There is nothing wrong with recognizing the greatness that America has been. It is only in recognizing America's greatness that you can determine we want to perpetuate that for future generations to have those opportunities, those freedoms, those assets.

But we are in trouble, and there has got to be a change or our time as the greatest country in history will become a self-fulfilling prophesy of those who say: "Ah, it was never that great." "Nah, it is not a great country." "No, I have always been embarrassed of America." That will become a self-fulfilling prophesy. We will lose our greatness. We will lose our freedom.

I said to three individuals from Australia who were here on Capitol Hill a couple years ago: Hey, I have had people up here say when we lose our freedom, I guess we can all come to Australia.

Neither of them even laughed. One of them said: Do you not understand, if you lose your freedom in America, China will take over Australia before you could ever get there?

America is a shining light on a hill. We give people hope. I have heard it and seen it from Africans with tears in their eyes—and, yes, they were Christians. Maybe you would be prejudiced against them. But they said: We need America strong if we are going to have any chance of security and freedom in our own country.

Let's keep America strong. Let's support Israel. Let's support enforcing the law as it is, as it has been, and as we need it to prolong and perpetuate this incredible country.

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

#### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise as a proud member of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

For a quarter century, the Blue Dogs in Congress have focused on three missions: fiscal responsibility for our country, a strong national defense, and commonsense solutions to practical problems.

We are 27 proud Democrats with democratic values. Our individual views and votes on the broad range of issues that come before this Congress run the gamut from progressive to moderate, centrist, and beyond; but together, we believe that the best way forward for our country on all of these issues is an underlying focus on fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense, and commonsense solutions wherever they may be found to practical problems.

Today, I wish to focus on fiscal responsibility. I do so as co-chair with my colleague from Utah, Mr. MCADAMS, of the Blue Dog Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform.

Let me start by saying, unfortunately, and very directly that it is very arguable that at no point in our entire history have we operated our Federal Government in as fiscally irresponsible a manner as we are operating it today.

There are lots of indicia of this out there, but nowhere does this show up more directly and stare us straight in the face than our national debt. Let me say what that is.

Our national debt is exactly what it sounds like. It is the amount that our Federal Government—you—owe to everyone who has loaned us money to pay for government.

Why do we have to do that? Because we are not bringing into government the revenues that are sufficient to match and pay for what we are paying for out of expenses.

We are now operating with a chronic and exploding deficit, and we are borrowing with abandon to make up the difference.

This particular chart is taken from the Congressional Budget Office. You will not find a more nonpartisan, objective, and professional group anywhere studying our fiscal responsibilities, our fiscal status, and our budgets than the Congressional Budget Office. I encourage everybody to take a look at their materials at [cbo.org](http://cbo.org). This is just one of their many publications, and it is a wealth of information:

CBO The Budget and Economic Outlook Fiscal Years 2019 to 2049.

They are not only responsible for what has happened today; they are responsible for taking a look at the long-term, as any one of us would want to do with our own budgets.

What this chart shows is outlays, or spending, on the top line and revenues on the bottom line. In this particular chart, we are matching outlays over time, and the timeframe here is about 15 years, against gross domestic product, the percentage of gross domestic product.

Why is that important? It is important because one could have outlays and revenues coming in, but the only way to match it up is, how much is the strength of your economy overall? It is kind of like asking yourself: Well, in my own household budget, what is my level of spending, what is my level of borrowing, what is my level of income as opposed to my overall financial situation?

So here we have the percentage of gross domestic product over on the left in the vertical axis, and down here, time.

We can clearly see here that as we look out over a long, long period of time, that if we continued on the way we are today, we would see massive continuing spread of the two lines between expenses on the top and revenues at the bottom.

To amplify the situation, when we take a look at where we are currently, 2019, that dotted line right over here, that is about \$1 trillion, that gap, \$1 trillion in 1 year of a deficit.

So as we can see very obviously, not only are we in a very difficult situation today, but if we do nothing about it, it will spread over time.

Now, what actually finances that difference? Debt. We go out and borrow it. It doesn't just arrive in the middle of the night in an unmarked bag. It didn't just grow on the tree outside. We are operating at a chronic and exploding deficit and borrowing to make up this difference.

I am a returnee to Congress. I served in Congress from 2002 to 2007, so I tend to match up my experiences then versus now. I had a 12-year absence in between, half a generation if you want to think about it.

When I left Congress in early 2007, our national debt stood at \$9 trillion. Today, our national debt stands at \$22 trillion.

By the way, if you want to have a harrowing view of something, take a look at [usdebtclock.org](http://usdebtclock.org) and watch the numbers turn over about as rapidly as anything you can see.

What you can see from studying the debt over time is an incredible increase over here on the right side of this chart.

But \$22.5 trillion today. Let's just think about that. That is \$68,300 for each and every citizen of this country, \$183,000 for each and every taxpayer. Really? 230 years in our country's his-

tory to get to a national debt of \$9 trillion, but just 12 years later, increasing by 250 percent to \$22.5 trillion?

Again, we can't just look at the absolute numbers, because they don't tell the full story. After all, if we had a thriving economy that was producing an incredible amount of money, some of these figures wouldn't make as much sense.

So let's, again, take the total debt against the total gross domestic product, again, just like any house or business would do. We can see here that if we chart total debt against GDP—again, on the far left side on the vertical axis, we have GDP—as a percent of GDP, and down here, we have a period that starts at the origins of our country and concludes in 2049, from the start of our country to 2049, you can see the peaks right here.

Obviously, our country was in bad shape at the beginning in the Revolutionary War and thereafter. We were just starting out as a country. And you can see, for example, the Civil War, this peak.

Wars are times when we have to borrow money. Wars are times that are very, very difficult for economies, and obviously our expenses are up and people have needs, and during that period, we borrow money. We always try, or have always tried, to pay it back down because we don't know when the next emergency will come along.

We can see another peak here, World War I. We see the Great Depression right here, the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which was financed with borrowing. And then, of course, the tragedy of World War II, the absolute peak of our debt versus our gross domestic product, right there.

And why not? Our world was at war. Our economy was in a shambles. We had to finance that war.

Not only did we finance that war, we financed the entire recovery of the world, the Marshall Plan, in so many ways. We rebuilt our cities. We rebuilt the national highway system. We incurred that largely through debt. This was the highest point of our debt to date.

We see, again, some peaks that were related to great recessions and downturns in our economy where we had to borrow for a little while, then we came back down. And then we came to the last 15 to 20 years.

□ 1415

Up until this point, we operated fairly responsibly. By 15 to 20 years, we abandoned fiscal responsibility and started down a road of accelerating debt, for the most part unrelated to wars, other than for Iraq and Afghanistan, which definitely had a consequence for our national debt, but mostly a result of a failure in this body and the administration to balance budgets as we went along.

Here we are in 2017, 2018, and 2019. What is scarier than anything else is

the CBO's projection of where it is going over time: out the roof, straight up.

We can see that this is not a partisan issue. In this particular graph, the percent of GDP is over on the left axis, and the bottom vertical axis is over time. In more recent history, the post-war period by Presidencies, we have Democrats in blue and Republicans in red.

We see over here President Truman in the late 1940s had a high threshold of debt-to-GDP, a little over 100 percent. Then, of course, it came down after that as we recovered. It went up in the era of some of our Great Recessions and, of course, our wars.

Then, we had the period when we did the best, which was an evolution from President Clinton into President Bush, which was the last time we balanced our budget.

Then, there is that spike starting with President Bush through the last Presidency and, especially, off the current Presidency into an ascending column, which is a projection from the Congressional Budget Office.

These are scary projections because the CBO projects that if we do nothing, we will see our debt climb to around 144 percent of GDP within a couple of decades.

Where does that rank us in the world? After all, we have had other governments that have had high debt. We have had other governments that have collapsed. We have had other governments for which their budget problems have caught up with them. Let's take a look at that.

This chart shows the period projected from the current year out only 5 years. It asks the question: What is the growth in our debt-to-GDP as compared to the rest of the world? How fast are we growing in our debt versus the rest of the world?

Unfortunately, the line on the right is us. We project that our debt-to-GDP will grow 11 percent over the next couple of years.

The next line is Italy. We have Korea and Japan, but the rest of the world seems to be getting their growth under control. Some of these countries are recovering from recessions, but some of these countries just have sound economic practices.

The embarrassing thing about this chart, the scary thing about this chart, is that we are not the world's leader. We are the world's loser, in terms of controlling our national debt.

Why should we care about all of this? One of the questions asked sometimes is: Why does debt matter?

I think the first and foremost obvious answer is that debt costs something. It is not free. If we borrow money, we pay interest. That is what everybody who loans us money expects. They expect to be paid some interest. These interest payments accelerate rapidly in times of accelerating debt.

We see here a projection, again based on figures from the Congressional

Budget Office, of interest spending over time, the next 10 years, in this particular case. We see that, today, we have interest of somewhere around \$400 billion a year but accelerating at a very rapid rate over the next decade, up to close to \$1 trillion a year.

The red line is a scenario that is very likely if we do not make some tough decisions. That gets us even higher.

This is the actual trend that we are looking at. That is a lot of money to be paying just for interest.

To make matters worse, try to compare that level of interest spending against some of our other spending.

In this particular chart, we see this line is our interest spending, kept relatively modest until recently but then accelerating very rapidly, as was indicated in my prior chart, to the levels out to 2029 that are truly scary. That is not the scary part, if that is not scary enough.

This line is our total spending on our children. What do we do to take care of the children of our country? That is our spending line. Interest is just crossing it right now. This is our total defense spending projected out over time with interest crossing over.

What this shows is that we are about to pay, in a very short period of time, if we don't do anything, far more money in basic interest on our national debt than we are spending on our children and our defense. That is an inexcusable situation for us to be in.

The first basic problem is that we crowd out spending for other Federal purposes, which forces us, by the way, to borrow more, which forces us to have higher debt, which forces us to pay more interest. Everybody who has been in a business or a personal situation knows this.

The second basic problem with that is why should we care about debt—national security. Where does this money come from? Who is lending us this money?

Two-fifths of our interest payments go overseas, two-fifths of the people in this world who are loaning us money. Two-fifths of our total debt is loaned to us, basically, by other countries. Other countries, 26 percent.

This is the line that is scary: China, up to 7 percent now and growing. Japan, okay, fine, we welcome Japan loaning money to us. But on balance, I would rather the blue be the blue rather than owing the money to other countries because who knows what is going to happen over the next 10 or 20 years or generations.

This is, obviously, not just an issue of our own fiscal stability, but it is a question of national security.

Another question of national security is that we need this money in case we get into other situations in the world, hopefully not, but prepare for the situation where we may have to have massive increases in defense spending over the next generation.

These are areas where we have traditionally tried to pay down our debt so

that we can borrow back up to finance these additional expenditures without destroying our economy. Yet, when we borrow in good times to finance even larger Federal spending, then we have very little safety net to be able to borrow in bad times.

That is not just a matter of budgetary stability. That is a matter of national security.

Finally, why should it matter? Economic damage. There is a school out there that is trying to justify more debt, which is largely not agreed to by most economists. Most economists agree that, over time, large levels of debt, large levels of interest payments, drive up basic interest rates. They drive up basic interest rates, and that is bad for the economy. They drive up inflation, and that is bad for the economy.

They lead to a situation where the markets out there—the people who are loaning us money, the people who are relying on the United States for its full faith and credit—start to doubt our basic fiscal solvency. They start to not only loan us money, but they start to charge us more interest, and that causes an economic problem.

Finally, it is just bad budgetary practice to skate too closely on thin ice.

This is why we should care: because our interest payments are crowding out spending; because it is a national security issue; and because, over time, it is an economic issue.

How did we get into this mess? Well, obviously, we are spending more than we are taking in. Our long-term deficit buildup and short-term tax reduction and spending increases are really the issue.

This chart is an illustration, again based on CBO information, of where our deficits are coming from today. When we are talking about the total amount of deficits closing in on \$1 trillion, we see that absent recent legislation—we are talking about just the last 5 years or so—we had a chronic deficit of close to \$400 billion a year. That is pretty bad since, if we take \$400 billion and times it by 5 years, all of a sudden, we are at \$2 trillion of debt.

But, then, we made major mistakes from a fiscal responsibility perspective in the last few years.

First of all, we had tax extenders that were not paid for. We will get into that. We had tax credits, tax reductions, and tax rates that were extended without accounting on the other side for the spending.

We had a major tax bill, which is still debated in this Chamber as to whether it was the right idea or not. What is indisputable about that tax bill was that it drove incredibly increasing deficits and incredibly and rapidly increasing debt.

Then, finally, we had a budget agreement, last year, to raise the amount of spending. There is nothing wrong with raising the amount of spending, per se, if it is a public judgment and a policy judgment that that is the best thing

for our country. What is wrong is to pretend that there is no consequence to our deficit, debt, and national fiscal policy.

What do we do about it?

By the way, I want to go back to that point for a second. We are not debating here whether our government should be bigger or smaller. We are not debating here whether taxes should be higher or lower. We can have that debate. It has been going on, after all, for 250 years and even before that back to the Colonies. We have always talked about how big government should or shouldn't be, how much we should or shouldn't spend through government. We just had that debate here on this floor today.

We have always talked about the overall level of taxes. Should they be higher? Should they be lower? Should we have high taxes to pay for spending? Should they be lower to generate economic growth? Those are good, solid policy decisions to be made.

That is not what we are talking about here. What we are talking about here is the fiscal result when we don't balance spending and revenues, the result when we don't balance spending and revenues.

We can choose to have high spending, but if we don't generate the revenue for that, then we are going to end up with incredible deficits and debt. We can choose to have lower taxes, but if we don't adjust the spending at the same time, we are going to end up with high deficits and debt. It just makes perfect sense.

That is all that we are talking about here. We are willing and able to have the debate over the size of government and taxes.

Again, within our Blue Dog Caucus, we have disagreements on that. But where we have centralization of agreement is in managing the consequence of that debate and having it be an honest debate, not a debate that pulls the wool over our fellow citizens' eyes on the consequences.

What do we do about it? Well, I think, first of all, we start talking about it again. It is really hard. Twenty years ago, in the great times when we actually did balance the budget in the late 1990s and the early 2000s, public sentiment was high on deficits and debt. People cared about this. People understood the risk.

Then, all of a sudden, politicians stopped talking about it. They did, on both sides of the aisle, what many of us do when faced with a major issue: We deny it. We don't want to acknowledge it. It is too much trouble. We don't want to say that when we cut taxes and don't adjust spending, there is a consequence for our deficit and the debt. We don't want to say the reverse of that. We want to tell everybody that everything is okay. After all, we can have our cake and eat it, too.

I don't want to go back to my district and say, well, I can't vote for a tax reduction because it is going to blow our deficit and debt.



This is an insidious situation. The consequences of deficits and debt are not apparent right up front. They don't catch up with us for a long time. But I think we all know, deep down, that we have a problem and that is not true.

□ 1430

And the second thing we have to do, at some point, is simply make a plan and implement it. And that is what our Democratic Blue Dog Coalition has done and will try to do going forward.

We have tried to come up with a blueprint for fiscal responsibility, which today, we endorsed and released. And these are a series of points that we believe need to be pursued in order to have some chance at fiscal responsibility and sustainability over time.

From that perspective, I am very pleased that I am joined today by my colleague from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS), my co-chair of the Blue Dog Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform, to share his views and to outline some of our agenda items.

I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CASE for organizing this Special Order today, and I thank him for his outstanding work as the co-chair of the Blue Dog Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform.

I am lucky to serve alongside him as co-chair, and I also want to thank STEPHANIE MURPHY for her tireless leadership in Congress and with the Blue Dogs.

Madam Speaker, Washington has an addiction problem. It is hooked on deficits, and it is hooked on debt. Our entire Nation, our children, and their children will pay the price for this addiction.

On March 2, 2019, the debt limit was reinstated as \$22 trillion as Representative CASE so appropriately outlined. To operate the government at this limit, the Treasury Department deployed extraordinary measures, accounting maneuvers, allowing government operations to continue. But if those measures run out and our cash reserves are depleted, the Federal Government would reach the unprecedented day on which our Federal Government cannot meet all of its obligations in full and on time.

The consequences of defaulting on our obligations are unknown, but could be economically devastating, not only for the United States, but globally.

As Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said recently about the prospect of not raising the debt limit: "It is beyond even considering that the United States would not honor all of its obligations and pay them when due. It is just something that can't even be considered," he said.

We know that the costs of barreling towards this fiscal cliff are already mounting. American taxpayers foot the bill for additional borrowing costs that

come from delays in extending the debt limit.

In previous years, uncertainty has caused interest rates on some Treasury bills to spike in anticipation of going over the fiscal cliff, resulting in many millions, if not billions of dollars in added interest costs.

As we have done more than 100 times, we are now preparing to vote to raise the debt limit. Raising it does not authorize new spending. It enables the government to pay its bills and avoid the sorry reality of becoming an untrustworthy borrower. What better time to pair that vote with a plan to reform government spending?

It is not as if we woke up this morning to suddenly face this fiscal calamity. It has been building for decades, as we just saw. Both parties in Republican and Democratic administrations have contributed to the problem. The question is: What are we going to do about it? And when will we start to get our borrowing and our spending addiction under control?

The Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a proud member, has a well-deserved reputation for talking the talk and walking the walk when it comes to fiscal responsibility.

Look at the Blue Dog priorities on fiscal responsibility and you will see a comprehensive list of pragmatic steps that we can take, some of which we have already taken.

For example, Blue Dogs support the House paygo rules. It is one of the first things the Blue Dogs fought for when we got sworn in this year. And I was pleased to see the House keep paygo rules.

We don't want those rules to be waived, but if they are, there should be a vote held on a waiver. Blue Dogs support a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget every year, except in times of war, in times of national emergency, or recession.

I was proud that my first bill introduced in this Congress was this exact balanced budget amendment that the Blue Dogs have endorsed. We want to return to regular order. Passing a budget every year and on time and avoiding omnibus appropriation packages that do not align with that budget.

As a former mayor myself who had to balance a budget every year and do so in a bipartisan fashion, I was then, as I am now, accountable to the taxpayers for every dollar we spent. Do elected officials face tough tradeoffs? Yes, absolutely. That comes with the job. Just as hardworking families and small business owners must do, you must work together, and we, in Congress, must work together to set priorities and make sure the checkbook balances at the end of each month.

It is important that we fully offset the cost of all new spending or reductions in fiscal revenues with spending cuts or revenue increases. We must make those tough choices. We need strict, enforceable spending caps to ensure a fiscally responsible budget.

The Blue Dogs also support better oversight over our government spending. The Government Accountability Office, or GAO, and the inspectors general are important entities throughout the Federal Government that hold Federal agencies accountable to taxpayers and recommend improvements.

We believe that Congress should know what it is voting on by having every conference report and bill that comes to the floor of the House accompanied by a cost estimate prepared by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and that should be done at least 24 hours in advance of the floor vote. We believe that committees should identify proper and related offsets before the legislation is reported out of committee.

A \$22 trillion debt burden is a heavy lift to eliminate, for sure. But at the very least, we should be able to agree not to take on new policies that add to that debt.

We teach our kids that if they want something badly enough, they need to figure out how to pay for it. Tax reform should be deficit neutral. Spending plans should be fully paid for. Even emergency spending, which should be passed quickly to respond when our communities need it most, should include a plan to pay for it, and we can think ahead and plan ahead for those emergencies.

We should get away from the ad hoc emergency spending and figure out how to establish a rainy-day fund which 45 States currently have. Every man, woman, and child in America owes \$68,000 as Representative CASE has highlighted as their share of the national debt. We will all be morally bankrupt, as well as financially bankrupt, if we don't stop kicking the can down the road and make future generations liable for our lack of fiscal discipline today.

And so my colleagues often ask me why deficits matter? My answer is because future generations will be forced to bear the burden of our failure if we don't act today. And the longer it takes for us to act, the more difficult those decisions become.

The cost of paying interest on our debt is the fastest growing part of the budget. We will spend more on interest than on defense by the year 2025. That is 6 years from now. Let that sink in. The government is projected to spend \$383 billion on interest payments for its debt this year alone. This year, \$383 billion.

So why do I care about the debt and deficits? It is because a strong fiscal house means we have a stronger country. That \$383 billion spent on interest payments in our debt is \$383 billion we can't spend on other priorities, such as clean energy and transportation, and affordable healthcare. The interest we pay on the debt is simply going on to our credit card. It is becoming part of the debt.

So if you care about healthcare, if you care about climate change and

building a 21st century infrastructure system, if you care about affordable housing and any other investment that the government can make, then I urge you, care about the debt, and care about our deficits. Because every dollar spent on paying down the debt and its deficits or interest on that debt is one more dollar that could have been invested in priorities that strengthen our country, that strengthen our national defense, and strengthens the American people.

It is clear that we are on a dangerous and unsustainable course. The decisions will not be easy. But our children and our grandchildren are counting on us to make this right. We were elected to make tough decisions.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much, and I am privileged to be his co-chair.

Would the gentleman engage me in a colloquy on a few of the issues that he touched on?

Mr. McADAMS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CASE. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. McADAMS. I would be happy to.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Let's talk about his proposed balanced budget amendment, by the way, of which I am a proud sponsor.

Some people criticized the balanced budget amendment which would have to be ratified throughout our country, as an overly restrictive mechanism, especially in times of national emergency.

As the gentleman's balanced budget amendment is crafted, is there flexibility to borrow money and to deficit spend in times of genuine national need?

I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. McADAMS. Yes, absolutely. We recognize that there may be emergencies that are unforeseen and unplanned for. And in those cases, the language of my proposed amendment would allow for deficit spending to help our communities in times of need, in times of national disasters or other emergencies. And I think that is important.

Mr. CASE. So we always have the ability to override the basic provisions with that balanced budget amendment in Congress, or where we believe that we do have to borrow that money. This is just a mechanism to introduce the same fiscal discipline that a well-run business or household has to follow?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. McADAMS. That is correct.

Mr. CASE. As, by the way, is the case with 49 out of 50 of our States, who either have a similar balanced budget amendment in their constitution or by statute.

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, that is correct. In my own State of Utah that has a balanced budget requirement, and has established a rainy-

day fund, as I mentioned, such that when those emergencies arise, they have funds available to account for that.

I would urge us to not only have that flexibility built into the language of the amendment, but to plan ahead. While we don't know what the next emergency will be or where it will strike, we know that dark days are ahead of us, and that there will be natural disasters and other emergencies and we should plan ahead for those.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman made reference to the fact that he was a mayor, and I made the comment to the gentleman once, and I believe it, that of all of the public officials I have ever worked with throughout the country, I think mayors understand fiscal responsibility the best.

The gentleman made reference to the fact that he functioned under a balanced budget as a mayor. Was there any magic to that? How did the gentleman do that? He had a requirement to do that, so what did he do?

I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. McADAMS. Well, one thing, I had a council of nine members: five Republicans and four Democrats. And one thing I know from experience is balancing a budget is hard. We have to make really tough choices. There are certainly things that may not be meritorious expenses that are easy to say no to, but by and large, we have to make some really tough decisions.

We can't do it all, even though we might want to do it all. You cannot do it all. And what it takes is, first of all, have a bipartisan relationship where people put their priorities on the table, discuss what they want to accomplish, and how they want to get there.

And then everyone has to continue to work together to refine proposals, to make sure that you cut the fat out of proposals and make sure that they are well refined, and every dollar spent is justified.

Ultimately, we have been able to balance a budget. We have to make tough decisions, but we are able to balance a budget, because there is that expectation, that requirement that we must get there, and so we do get there.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, so to that point, my experience in Hawaii, where we have had a balanced budget for a long time—and I was a State legislator—so I had knock-down, drag-out fights over all this kind of stuff, whether it be to increase spending, or tax reductions, or tax increases. But it was always against the backdrop that it had to balance.

My sense was always that the folks that we represented understood that that presented us with a series of tough choices, and they understood that in the big picture, the tough choices that we had to make as a result of a balanced budget, were for the better, the overall, long-term, big picture fiscal health, economic health and social health of Hawaii.

Did the gentleman have that experience in Utah?

I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, we did have that experience, and I would add, it made us better. The county that I presided over as mayor, we had a AAA bond rating. The faith in our ability to pay our debts meant we paid lower interest rates. People knew that we would not default on those debts, and we saved tax dollars because people knew that we could balance our budget.

I would like to add one point to the gentleman's consideration. Fiscal responsibility is important. It is important for our States. It is important for this country.

But another element that I found in the process of balancing a budget, when we had to make those tough choices, when, at the end of the day, the ledger had to balance, what we were forced to do was go back and look at every expenditure we made and ask ourselves:

Can it be done more effectively?

Can we stretch our dollars further?

Is the program or endeavor that we are engaged in the lowest-cost alternative?

Are tax dollars being spent wisely?

Are programs invested in our citizens, whether it is a program to reduce recidivism or to improve early childhood learning?

We were expected to look and evaluate the effectiveness of each and every program because we were having to make competing choices. We were choosing between one good and, hopefully, a better good, and that required us to quantify empirically the outcomes we were receiving from our programs.

□ 1445

That was good for fiscal responsibility. More importantly, it was good for the people we were serving because the programs we were delivering were expected to improve. We held those programs to a high standard on behalf of the citizens who we served.

Mr. CASE. I think what the gentleman is saying in a very gracious Utah way is that the lack of a balanced budget where we always have the recourse to just borrow money and kick some cans down the road disincentivizes the efficient and effective expenditure of government funds, of taxpayer funds. After all, if there is waste in that expenditure, there is a safety valve there, whereas a balanced budget drives a certain discipline.

Mr. McADAMS. Waste in plowing snow or fixing streetlights is one thing, but in programs that serve our residents, there is a human cost to programs that aren't held to a high standard. It takes a toll on individuals and on families—on people—who were promised one outcome. If a program fails to deliver on that, there is a human cost.

Mr. CASE. One other point that the gentleman made that I think bears further discussion is the gentleman's reference to paygo. Of course, we throw

“paygo” around here all the time. Sometimes, people’s eyes kind of blank out when we talk about paygo.

Can the gentleman talk a little bit more about the simplistic and basic approach of paygo? What does it mean? What is its effect on the work that we do?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. The rules of the House require that any legislation that would have a fiscal impact has to be paid for. We can’t simply add that on to the tab and put it on the taxpayers’ credit card. Every legislation has to be paid for upfront.

Mr. CASE. In other words, not financed by additional debt, which would have the result of driving up the deficit, the debt, and interest payments?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. That is exactly right. I describe it as saying that the first rule when you find yourself in a hole and are not sure how to get out is to stop digging.

Mr. CASE. Let’s take a pretty straightforward example. Let’s say that we wanted to reduce taxes.

By the way, we can acknowledge there is a debate about whether reducing taxes does, in fact, generate revenue or not. But for these purposes and especially the recent large tax cut, we simply did not see a return on revenues from those tax cuts.

But let’s just stick with the fact that if we reduce taxes, then we have to either increase another tax and/or reduce government spending somewhere to be able to have a budget-neutral, a deficit-neutral outcome.

Is that correct?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. That is right. Every activity, whether it is reducing revenues or increasing spending, should be neutral as it relates to the Federal deficit.

Mr. CASE. Conversely, if we want to increase Federal spending, we have to either reduce some other Federal spending or increase taxes, correct?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. Exactly. That is correct.

Mr. CASE. The gentleman said that the House rules already provided for paygo. So why are we here so concerned about it?

Mr. MCADAMS. One of my concerns is the willingness with which both sides, both parties, will waive paygo. It takes a simple majority to waive paygo. We have seen that happen from time to time, whether it is exigent circumstances like emergencies, but other things that we can plan ahead and should look ahead for.

Mr. CASE. Essentially, we have a rule that is honored in the breach?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. Yes.

Mr. CASE. Of course. One of the elements of our Blue Dog fiscal responsibility blueprint is to tighten up the rules on paygo so that we stop the bleeding on debt and deficit spending.

Mr. MCADAMS. Exactly.

Mr. CASE. Again, I am honored to be the gentleman’s co-chair, and I thank the gentleman for adding to our debate today.

Madam Speaker, I want to make one other point before I close on this subject. I want to emphasize one of the points made by my colleague from Utah. He talked about restoring the budget and appropriations process. This starts to be real inside baseball.

Congress goes through a process establishing a budget, which is the overall outline of Federal spending for the next year—because we do everything on a yearly basis, for the most part—and then passing appropriations bills that are consistent with that budget. In other words, we make the big picture decision upfront in a budget, and then we have our appropriations bills that must match that budget.

In what we refer to here as regular order, what we would do is first have a budget resolution that passes the House, passes the Senate, and is agreed to by both the House and the Senate so that we know what our roadmap is. Then, we would take each of the areas of government that needs appropriations every year.

The way we do it is, there are 12 separate appropriations bills, and we would individually pass each of those bills consistent with the budget. We would do all of that by October 1, which is when our fiscal year starts.

We would call that regular order. That would be quite regular order for any business and any personal budget.

The last time we followed regular order was 1995. The last time we went through a full budget process, an individual appropriations bill process, was 1995. And that has simply thrown our Federal fiscal house into disarray. We saw that with an incredibly tragic and unnecessary Federal Government shutdown just late last year and earlier this year. That was in part to be laid at the feet of our failure to follow basic budgetary, fiscal, and appropriations procedures.

We have tried, on a bipartisan basis, to fix this. In fact, just last year, we had a bicameral, bipartisan committee set up to reform the rules of the House and the Senate as to the budget and the appropriations process.

I want to read a passage from that committee’s report. This was the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate.

Here is a quote from the committee’s report in late 2018: “There have been numerous breakdowns in the budget process in recent decades. Fiscal year 1995 was the last time Congress passed a conference report on the budget resolution followed by passage of 13 sepa-

rate appropriations bills before the beginning of the new fiscal year.”

We now do 12.

“Continuing resolutions, CRs, have become the status quo for funding the Federal Government, demonstrating Congress’ failure to complete its work on time. CRs create uncertainty for agencies and the American people.”

By the way, I stop to describe a CR as a resolution that says: Sorry, we can’t figure out what to do in this next fiscal year. So while we are trying to figure it out, all we are going to do is continue the spending the way it was in the last fiscal year, no adjustment of spending levels, no adjustment of priorities, and no update for current situations. Let’s just kick this can down the road.

That is a CR.

Back to the report.

“In many years, there has been concern that parts of the government would have to shut down due to the failure to enact even stopgap appropriations, and shutdowns of various durations have actually occurred. In the 115th Congress alone,” the most recent Congress, “there have been two government shutdowns. Whether it is Federal employees being furloughed, national parks shutting down, adverse effects on defense and law enforcement, shutdowns inflict severe damage and uncertainty on the Nation’s fiscal state. Additionally, multiple JSCBAPR members expressed frustration regarding the lack of legislative tools available for Congress to address national needs or the national debt in a bipartisan manner.”

The committee’s report was submitted very, very late in the last Congress, so there was really not enough time to debate it fully and to proceed, but the report certainly remains highly relevant together with recommended legislation. Our Blue Dog Caucus believes that reform along those lines is necessary.

Finally—and I don’t speak now for the Blue Dogs, but I do speak for myself and, I believe, many individual Blue Dogs and perhaps others—we have another mechanism available to us, a mechanism that we shouldn’t have to follow but that sometimes may be the only way to cut through the political dialogue and the fears of people to make tough decisions. That is to develop independent commissions outside Congress of experts, hopefully on a neutral basis and hopefully on a non-partisan or bipartisan basis, who are charged with reviewing and making decisions on revenue and spending matters and reporting their results back to Congress, hopefully for an up-or-down vote. If Congress gets the opportunity to pick at a balanced report once it comes back, then it defeats the purpose of the commission to start with. Simpson-Bowles was one very well-known commission that failed, and there have been others.

It is certainly conceivable that if we can’t get our act in order in Congress—

as we should be able to do, and as I believe the American people want and think we should do—then we need to resort to some other mechanism to get this House in order.

Finally, we need public support. We need to get people involved again in this issue.

As I said earlier, the late 1990s and early 2000s were the height of public concern over deficits and debt, and it resulted in external pressure to Congress to balance our budget.

A succession of two Presidents with bipartisan Congresses, by the way, got

it balanced. The public demanded it; we delivered.

Now, it is almost a forgotten issue. It doesn't even rank in the top 10 of major issues. We have many, many major issues. But, Madam Speaker, I will tell you one thing, the issues that are in the top 10, our solutions to those issues will be crippled if we don't get our basic fiscal house in order.

In conclusion, the Blue Dogs believe that we are, in fact, in a national crisis. We stand ready to work with anyone and everyone toward common-sense, mainstream solutions.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 19, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

## EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SLOVAKIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 30 AND JUNE 3, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Gerald Connolly .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Michael Turner .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Brett Guthrie .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Linda Sánchez .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Susan Davis .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Neal Dunn .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. James Sensenbrenner .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. Paul Cook .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Hon. James Costa .....	6/1	6/3	Slovakia .....		611.40						611.40
Hon. Brendan Boyle .....	5/31	6/3	Slovakia .....		917.10		3,382.20				4,299.30
Hon. Filemon Vela .....	5/31	6/3	Slovakia .....		917.10						917.10
Hon. John Shimkus .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Collin Davenport .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Adam Howard .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Edmund Rice .....	5/30	6/3	Slovakia .....		1222.80						1,222.80
Kate Knudson .....			Slovakia .....						226.02		226.02
Committee total .....					17,119.20		3,382.20		226.02		20,727.42

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY, July 2, 2019.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MEXICO, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 5 AND JUNE 8, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Katherine Monge .....	6/5	6/8	Mexico .....		1,772.00		431.88				1,703.88
Hon. Jaime Lizarraga .....	6/5	6/8	Mexico .....		1,272.00		431.75				1,703.75
Committee total .....					2,544.00		863.63				3,407.63

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, July 3, 2019.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO FRANCE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 6 AND JUNE 9, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Nancy Pelosi .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Eliot Engel .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Mark Takano .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Don Young .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Anna Eshoo .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Ron Kind .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. James Langevin .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Stephen Lynch .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Mike Conaway .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. James Costa .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Louie Gohmert .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Kenny Marchant .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Mike McCaul .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz .....	6/6	6/7	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> ) 820.23				3,410.23
Hon. Ed Perlmutter .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Bob Latta .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Jackie Speier .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO FRANCE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 6 AND JUNE 9, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Mike Quigley .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Larry Bucshon .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Morgan Griffith .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Bill Huizenga .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Bill Johnson .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. William Keating .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Julia Brownley .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Matt Cartwright .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Paul Cook .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Ann Kuster .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Sean Patrick Maloney .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Marc Veasey .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Donald Norcross .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Brian Babin .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Barry Loudermilk .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Elise Stefanik .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Don Bacon .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Jim Banks .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Nanette Barragán .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Salud Carbajal .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Neal Dunn .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Roger Marshall .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Jimmy Panetta .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Thomas Suozzi .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Gil Cisneros .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Jason Crow .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Chrissy Houlahan .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. John Joyce .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Mikie Sherrill .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Abigail Spanberger .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Michael Waltz .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee .....	6/6	6/8	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Hon. Lee Zeldin .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Dr. Brian Monahan .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Paul Irving .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Wyndee Parker .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Drew Hammill .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Kate Knudson Wolters .....	6/2	6/9	France .....		4,662.00		( <sup>3</sup> ) 563.70				5,225.70
Emily Berret .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Patti Ross .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Kelsey Smith .....	6/2	6/9	France .....		4,662.00		( <sup>3</sup> ) 563.70				5,225.70
Kristina Jeter .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Julio Obscura .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Caleb Smith .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Will Dunham .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Brittan Specht .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Laura Rauch .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Matt Reel .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Erik Lesnewsky .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
David Adams .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,590.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,590.00
Valerie Roberts .....	6/6	6/9	France .....		2,073.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				2,073.00
Committee Totals .....					188,561.00		1,947.63				190,508.63

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, July 8, 2019.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1, AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH, July 9, 2019.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, July 3, 2019.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JAMES. P. MCGOVERN, July 5, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KATHY CASTOR, July 8, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1672. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1673. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report titled "Fiscal Year 2018 Purchases From Foreign Entities", pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8305; Public Law 104-201, Sec. 827 (as amended by Public Law 111-350, Sec. 3); (124 Stat. 3833) and 41 U.S.C. 8304 note; Public Law 115-245, Sec. 8028(b); (132 Stat. 3006); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1674. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three (3) officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1675. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, United States Navy, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1676. A letter from the Comptroller of the Currency, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the 2018 annual report to Congress containing a description of actions taken to carry out section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, as amended, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1463 note; Public Law 101-73, Sec. 308 (as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 367(4)); (124 Stat. 1556); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1677. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's Report to Congress on Global Health Innovations for Fiscal Year 2018, pursuant to Public Law 115-411, Sec. 2(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1678. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis 2018 management report and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1679. A letter from the Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting seven (7) notifications of a designation of acting officer, nomination, or action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1680. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 170817779-8161-02] (RIN: 0648-XG572) received July 15, 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.

1681. A letter from the Attorney, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Shrewsbury River, Monmouth County Highway Bridge, Sea Bright, New Jersey [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0460] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1682. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Chester, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0403] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1683. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, Atlantic City, NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0537] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1684. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Passagassawakeag River, Belfast, ME [Docket Number: USCG-2016-0989] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1685. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Columbia River, Fireworks Kennewick, WA [Docket

Number: USCG-2019-0323] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1686. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, Newport 4th of July Fireworks, Yaquina Bay, Newport, OR [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0520] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1687. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Miles 483 to 484, Rock Island, IL [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0513] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1688. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Redwood City Independence Day Fireworks Display; Port of Redwood City, Redwood City, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0467] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1689. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Vallejo Independence Day Fireworks Display; Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0379] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1690. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone: City of Benicia Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Carquinez Strait, Benicia, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0393] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1691. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0338] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



1692. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Waterfront Celebration Fireworks Display; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2019-0492] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1693. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, City of North Charleston Fireworks, North Charleston, SC [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0371] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## 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. H.R. 2943. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in English and Spanish; with amendments (Rept. 116-158). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 397. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-159, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3298. A bill to increase entitlement funding for child care; with amendments (Rept. 116-160). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3299. A bill to permit legally married same-sex couples to amend their filing status for income tax returns outside the statute of limitations, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-161). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Ms. SHALALA):

H.R. 3819. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROUDA (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 3820. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to direct the Office of National

Drug Control Policy to publish a list of drug control grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 3821. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make improvements to the regulation of consumer reporting agencies and protect consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 3822. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to require metropolitan planning organizations to consider greenhouse gas emissions in long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3823. A bill to ensure that health professions opportunity demonstration projects train project participants to earn a recognized postsecondary credential, and to clarify that community colleges are eligible for grants to conduct such a demonstration project; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3824. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. COOK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 3825. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the "Helen Fabela Chávez Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BOST, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 3826. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GALLEGÓ, Mr. PANNETTA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SIREs, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MENG, Ms.

MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GONZÁLEZ of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 3827. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and Hispanic-serving school districts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GONZÁLEZ of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 3828. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for the research, development, and demonstration of commercially viable technologies for the capture of carbon dioxide produced during the generation of natural gas-generated power; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOLDEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mrs. LURIA):

H.R. 3829. A bill to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, 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. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. COOPER):

H.R. 3830. A bill to provide taxpayers with an improved understanding of Government programs through the disclosure of cost, performance, and areas of duplication among them, leverage existing data to achieve a functional Federal program inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 3831. A bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of North Dakota over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Devils Lake Indian Reservation"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 3832. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts to include rollovers for charitable life-income plans for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3833. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the automatic recertification of income for income-driven repayment plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3834. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide political advertising vouchers and payments to defray the costs of postage for candidates in general elections to the Senate or House of Representatives who agree to restrictions on the types of contributions such candidates raise and the types of expenditures such candidates make, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 3835. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of cancer care planning and coordination under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COX of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 3836. A bill to amend section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 to include public safety requirements in terms and conditions States may require of mobile services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3837. A bill to establish the National Fab Lab Network, a Federally chartered organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 3838. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to recognize employers with a commitment to helping employees balance workplace responsibilities and family obligations; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 3839. A bill to improve commercialization activities in the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 3840. A bill to establish a consortia of universities to advise the Secretary of Defense on cybersecurity matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 3841. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions against 24 senior officials of the Border Service and Federal Security Service of Russia until the release of certain seized Ukrainian ships and crewmembers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 3842. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to require a State child health plan to include certain lead screening coverage and to codify such requirement under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):

H.R. 3843. A bill to promote international efforts in combating corruption, kleptocracy, and illicit finance by foreign officials and other foreign persons, including through a new anti-corruption action fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 3844. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require all persons exercising substantial operational control over a concentrated animal feeding operation to jointly obtain a permit for certain discharges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. STIVERS, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. PORTER, Mr. HIMES, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mrs. MURPHY):

H.R. 3845. A bill to authorize a grant program that strengthens the capacity of community development financial institutions through alignment with national service participants; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COLE, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. COOK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CASE, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 3846. A bill to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. CLINE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 3847. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the "Reverend Curtis West Harris

Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 3848. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules requiring private funds to publicly disclose certain information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, 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 Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 3849. A bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 3850. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exempt assistance provided by political parties to the campaigns of candidates who are affiliated with such parties for secure information communications technology or cybersecurity products or services from the limitations on the amount of coordinated expenditures parties may make in connection with the campaigns of such candidates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 3851. A bill to extend funding for Brand USA through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. WELCH (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 3852. A bill to provide oversight of the border zone in which Federal agents may conduct vehicle checkpoints and stops and enter private land without a warrant, and to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. WEXTON (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3853. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase under the Medicaid program the minimum monthly personal needs allowance for institutionalized individuals and couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.J. Res. 73. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. FRANKEL, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H. Res. 502. A resolution congratulating the United States Women's National Team for its win on July 7, 2019, of the 2019 Fédération Internationale de Football Association Women's World Cup, and for becoming the most successful team in international women's soccer; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H. Res. 503. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, headquartered in Sacramento, California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COX of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H. Res. 504. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Clinicians HIV/AIDS Testing and Awareness Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 505. A resolution recognizing July 28, 2019, as "World Hepatitis Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. CICILLINE introduced a bill (H.R. 3854) to allow the Coast Guard to issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel Oliver Hazard Perry, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## 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 Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3819.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ROUDA:

H.R. 3820.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. McHENRY:

H.R. 3821.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be

made law, and therefore implicitly allows Congress to amend any legislation that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3822.

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. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3823.

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. BOST:

H.R. 3824.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 3825.

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

(1) To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution;

(2) To establish post offices and post roads as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution; and

(3) To make all laws necessary and proper for executing powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 3826.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states "[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 3827.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

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 or officer thereof.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 3828.

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

Article I, Section 8, clauses 1, 3, & 18

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 3829.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 3830.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 3831.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3832.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3833.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3834.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 3835.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 3836.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3837.

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 Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 3838.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 3839.

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

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 3840.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 3841.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate Commerce with foreign nations.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 3842.

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

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 3843.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 3844.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 3845.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 3846.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendment, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 3847.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3848.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3849.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 3850.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3851.

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

Article 1, 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 or Officer thereof..

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3852.

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

Article 1, 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 or Officer thereof..

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 3853.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3854.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.J. Res. 73.

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

Article 1, Section 8

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 24: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 35: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 45: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 117: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 335: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 397: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 479: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 510: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 535: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 555: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 565: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 617: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 647: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 734: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 864: Ms. SANCHEZ and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 878: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 934: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 935: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 945: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 959: Mr. COOPER, Mrs. LESKO, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 978: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1042: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1045: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1050: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1058: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1111: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1116: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1139: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1154: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 1155: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1175: Mr. BUCHON and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1209: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1220: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1228: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1254: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 1255: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 1379: Mr. BEYER and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 1393: Mr. LUJÁN and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1394: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1396: Mrs. MILLER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KIM, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BOST, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. LATTI, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1406: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1407: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1434: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1468: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1485: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1511: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1530: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1568: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1579: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1645: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1652: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. MENG, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. KILMER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1679: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 1695: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1709: Mr. STANTON, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CROW, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1711: Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1727: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1748: Mr. PETERS and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1753: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1773: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 1814: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1817: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1837: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 1840: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1897: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 1959: Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 2001: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 2041: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 2096: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 2137: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 2146: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 2147: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. REED, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. McEACHIN, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2148: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 2153: Mr. BACON, Ms. WILD, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2155: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2199: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2215: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2239: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 2271: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 2296: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 2328: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 2382: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2387: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2388: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 2407: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2420: Mr. RUIZ and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2426: Mr. ROSE of New York and Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 2428: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2474: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. McEACHIN, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2481: Mr. UPTON, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 2498: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2504: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2517: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2571: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 2610: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2625: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2647: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2679: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 2692: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2739: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 2760: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2772: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2775: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2777: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 2808: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 2816: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2847: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2905: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 2913: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 2931: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2977: Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2992: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 3006: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3062: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 3073: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 3085: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 3086: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3104: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3114: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 3138: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3239: Mr. EVANS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr.

BEYER, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3290: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3303: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3306: Mr. CLINE and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3319: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 3349: Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 3356: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 3362: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 3369: Mr. LAWSON of Florida and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3375: Mr. CLINE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3394: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3396: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3425: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 3437: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 3451: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 3452: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3463: Ms. HILL of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 3497: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 3502: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 3503: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 3512: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3515: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. COMER, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 3524: Mr. LUJÁN.

H.R. 3549: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3570: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LAMB, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. COX of California, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3580: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. BACON, and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 3582: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3589: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 3598: Mr. MOULTON, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 3607: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3609: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3655: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 3667: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 3670: Ms. SHERRILL and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 3691: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 3697: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 3702: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 3722: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 3739: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 3745: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3775: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3776: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3782: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3794: Mr. CASE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3809: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 3816: Mr. GUEST and Mr. BAIRD.

H.J. Res. 72: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RASKIN, and Mrs. LURIA.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. ESTES.

H. Con. Res. 36: Ms. DELBENE.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. DOGETT.

H. Res. 54: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H. Res. 60: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H. Res. 189: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 246: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. TIMMONS.

H. Res. 358: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 374: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H. Res. 396: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 419: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H. Res. 484: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 486: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H. Res. 487: Mr. COSTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. TRONE.

H. Res. 488: Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Res. 493: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H. Res. 495: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H. Res. 501: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. WILD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. HORSFORD.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

No. 121

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, You soar on the wings of the wind. May our lives delight You. As our lawmakers seek to fulfill Your purposes, impart to them Your wisdom. Lord, pursue and overtake their enemies so that Your will may be accomplished on Earth. Show our Senators Your loving kindness, enabling them to serve You faithfully. Sustain us all with Your love, for we find our joy in You. Show mercy to the merciful, purity to the pure, and justice to the upright.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, with the record rainfalls and the negotiations of Chinese tariffs going on, our

farmers are hurting, but we can give them some certainty by passing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement on trade.

In my home State, 86,500 Iowans in farming depend upon agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico, adding \$10.3 billion to our State's economy. Manufacturing and services are also going to have a big boom out of this agreement being agreed to. Every third row of Iowa soybeans are exported, and this trade deal will ensure that these farmers continue to have duty-free access to our North American neighbors.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement also provides new export opportunities for American dairy farmers, poultry, and egg producers.

Let's give a boost to our farmers and all the jobs related to farming and in cities and also give a boost to the entire country, by passing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and do it very soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### MCCREARY COUNTY AND DEPUTY SHERIFF DUSTIN WATKINS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, first, this morning I would like to join Kentuckians in McCreary County in breathing a sigh of relief. Deputy Sheriff Dustin Watkins was responding to a routine call on Tuesday evening when

he was shot and needed to be airlifted to a hospital. Fortunately, we heard yesterday afternoon that Deputy Watkins is in stable condition. I understand that last night he was able to sit up for the first time—all good news.

With Sheriff Randy Waters, I wish to extend sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who are caring for this brave Kentuckian and will support his recovery. My best wishes go out to Deputy Watkins, his family, and his colleagues. We thank them for their service to our Commonwealth as we are reminded once again of the sacrifices they make every day to keep us safe.

### TREATIES AND HOUSE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week the Senate has attended to one of this body's unique responsibilities relating to foreign affairs—the ratification of treaties. We have ratified bilateral tax agreements with four trading partners: Spain, Switzerland, Japan, and Luxembourg. Measures like these bring clarity, certainty, and fairness to international commerce. They ensure U.S. citizens and businesses have a level playing field without duplicative tax burdens, and they make the United States a more inviting destination for foreign investment.

These newly ratified treaties will provide immediate and much needed relief to employers in every corner of our country. They will reinforce support for hundreds of thousands of jobs including many in my home State of Kentucky. This is a significant bipartisan accomplishment.

Now, standing in stark contrast to the Senate's productive, bipartisan week is what the Democratic House of Representatives has chosen to prioritize. We have seen plenty of partisan theatrics and high drama for the television cameras. We have seen the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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majority spend plenty of time attacking the President and members of the administration, but virtually nothing in the way of bipartisan legislation to actually make progress for the American people.

The problem seems to be that so many Democrats have moved so far to the extreme left that they literally could not pass commonsense legislation even if they wanted to.

A case in point is the chronic difficulties and consternation that we have seen over in the House when it comes to the seemingly straightforward task of condemning anti-Semitism and efforts to delegitimize the Jewish State of Israel.

Back in March, remember, House Democrats had their hands full dealing with one of their freshman members who had trotted out age-old anti-Semitic tropes—dual loyalties, support for Israel being driven by money, the kind of language you would think the House could have condemned pretty easily.

But instead, after days of internal Democratic strife, all the House leadership could drum up was a watered-down resolution that sort of—gestured vaguely at the problem. All the while, Senate-passed legislation that would actually do something about anti-Semitism has been languishing over in the House without a vote.

For more than 5 months and counting, the House has refused to act on S. 1, the foreign policy legislation that we here in the Senate passed back in February. This bipartisan bill included a provision to take on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, an economic form of anti-Semitism that targets Israel.

Here in the Senate, taking action against BDS was a bipartisan goal. I am a passionate opponent of the BDS movement. I know my friend the Democratic leader opposes BDS as well, and S. 1 earned 77 votes here in the Senate back then.

But apparently it is a bridge too far for this Democratic House. Even a milder resolution simply condemning BDS—not doing anything about it, but condemning it—has become a lightning rod for the far left this very week.

Reports indicate that “senior progressive Democrats are urging House leaders” to walk away from the resolution condemning BDS—a resolution, not the thing that we passed, which is much stronger. So the House will not take action against it, and now it seems they can’t even merely condemn it. They can’t even condemn it. In fact, the far left wants to defend BDS. Let me say that again. The far left in the House wants to defend BDS.

I guess this is where we are. Elected members of the Democratic Party are openly urging their leadership not to make them vote on condemning anti-Semitism. Let me say that again. Elected members of the Democratic Party are openly urging their leadership not to make them vote on con-

demning anti-Semitism—a watered-down version of what we sent them back in February—because, for some reason, it is just too tough a vote. What a sad and bizarre situation we find in the House.

I urge the Speaker of the House to do the right thing. Don’t let these far-left voices run the show. At long last, bring S. 1 up for a vote—the comprehensive legislation that sailed through the Senate with 77 votes. Bring it up for a vote, Madam Speaker. Let them vote. I bet we would see a pretty good outcome and show anti-Semitism the door.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, earlier this week, I spoke about the economic pain that many Americans felt under the last administration’s leftwing policies and all the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress have done to turn the page.

Today we see the lowest unemployment in nearly 50 years, way more job openings than job seekers, and an all-American recovery that isn’t limited to just a select few places and industries.

My home State of Kentucky has hit and sustained our lowest unemployment rate ever recorded—ever recorded. Two thirds of Americans now say they feel optimistic about where their finances will be a year from now.

But we know the effects of bad policy are hard to erase. So my colleagues and I are continuing to fight for the places that are still struggling to pick up the pieces.

Unfortunately, my home State of Kentucky offers a particular case study, because nothing shows the difference between the last administration and this one more clearly than in the case of affordable energy and the coal industry.

For more than a century, coal has been a reliable and low-cost energy source that has helped fuel America. Coalfields in both Eastern and Western Kentucky have provided good jobs and served as critical drivers of our economy.

Back in 2009, the industry directly employed more than 23,000 Kentuckians. It provided more than 90 percent of our electricity. It brought billions of dollars in revenue into our State. So we were especially vulnerable when a Democratic administration came to Washington that didn’t even try to hide its hostility toward Kentucky coal.

Speaking in San Francisco, then-Senator Obama pledged to bankrupt any new coal-fired plants and declared that under his plan “electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.” His Democratic leader of the Senate said, “Coal makes us sick.”

So clearly, the elite disdain for fossil fuel in places like New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco was going to become the law of the land. Sure enough, the Obama administration de-

clared a War on Coal. It hurt Kentucky badly. Plants closed. More than 10,000 miners were let go—10,000 unemployed miners. And then these mass layoffs strained local social services. Entire communities went into a tailspin. Unsurprisingly, many of these places experiencing economic distress subsequently became ground zero in the opioid and substance abuse crisis as well.

I, and Republicans generally, did all we could to fight. But when we passed bills repealing the worst regulations, President Obama vetoed them. When I urged his EPA Administrator to hear from Kentucky families, she turned me down.

The policies had been dreamt up in places like New York City and San Francisco for places like New York City and San Francisco. Places like Kentucky? We were just the collateral damage. So it is no surprise that all kinds of Americans elected President Trump and Republican majorities in 2016. And we hit the ground running.

One of the first bills we sent the President was a bill I introduced to repeal the stream buffer rule, a burdensome part of a series of regulations designed to make coal prohibitively expensive to mine or to use. We halted some of the worst regulations, like the waters of the United States, eliminated the so-called Clean Power Plan, and replaced them with policies to support American energy dominance.

For former miners and for the industry, the damage can’t be unwound overnight. This very month, we have seen two more major coal producers in Kentucky move toward bankruptcy. Clearly, even now, all is not well. That is why my colleagues and I are focused on lending a helping hand. When healthcare benefits for thousands of retired coal miners and their families were at risk, I led the effort to secure a permanent extension and protect coal communities in States like Kentucky.

Congressman HAL ROGERS and I established the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program, which aims to revive old mine sites into economic drivers again. That program includes everything from helping dislocated miners develop the skills they need to transition to a new career, to delivering resources to strengthen our water infrastructure, to improving the infrastructure and tourist attractions to draw new visitors and money into Appalachia.

With each program and many others, we are working to revitalize communities and repair the damage. But many of our Democratic colleagues are itching to take us right back to the bad old days. The most prominent voices in the Democratic Party are openly calling to restart a Big Government assault on fossil fuels and on so many Americans’ livelihoods.

We all remember several months ago when many Democrats embraced an unabashedly socialist proposal called

the Green New Deal that would have made the Obama-era War on Coal look like child's play. Among all of its other craziness, it sought to end all production of American oil, coal, and natural gas within a decade. How ridiculous. How absurd.

We had a vote on it in the Senate, and lest we think this was just some extreme view that only the fringe subscribes to, only 4 of 47 Democrats could bring themselves to oppose the Green New Deal in the Senate—only 4 of 47 Democrats could bring themselves to oppose the Green New Deal in the Senate. There were 43 of 47 Democrats who couldn't vote against this thing. Fortunately, Republicans voted it down.

But last week, not to be deterred, a number of Democrats rolled out yet another far-left environmentalist manifesto. This new resolution calls for—here we go again—a managed phaseout of the use of oil, gas, and coal to keep fossil fuels in the ground—a managed phaseout of the use of oil, gas, and coal to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Of course, this means a whole lot more intrusive Big Government.

The bill calls for a “massive-scale federal mobilization of resources”—a “massive-scale federal mobilization of resources.” Just imagine what that would entail. And get this: The new manifesto dictates that our Nation model ourselves after Europe, Canada, and liberal enclaves like New York and Los Angeles. You just can't make this stuff up.

The contrast is clear. Republicans are working overtime to rebuild the conditions for middle-class prosperity, and we are working overtime to help those who were hit hard in the Obama years. But Democrats are working to resurrect the same bad ideas that caused much of that damage and implement them yet again, this time on steroids. The good news is, as long as this Republican Senate has anything to say about it, none of these radical job-killing manifestos have a chance of becoming law.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Clifton L. Corker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### CONSUMER PRIVACY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, these days, there is an online component to

almost everything that Americans do. Were you at the beach last weekend? You undoubtedly posted pictures on Facebook and Instagram. You probably used Google Maps or Waze or another map app to find your way there. You undoubtedly booked a hotel stay on one of the myriad hotel booking sites, and you transmitted your credit card information online to pay for it. During your stay, you probably took advantage of the hotel's free Wi-Fi, whether you were uploading pictures or watching a show on Netflix. If you had dinner at a restaurant while you were there, there is a good chance you used the internet to make a reservation. If you booked an excursion while you were there—maybe a fishing trip or a boat tour—chances are good you made that reservation online as well.

I could go on, but you get the idea. The internet and mobile internet-enabled devices like our phones and watches have resulted in an explosion of opportunity and innovation. Information is more accessible than ever before. We can communicate more swiftly and easily than ever before. We can shop without leaving our house, strike out confidently into the unknown without a map and still find our way back, turn on the air conditioner or heater with a simple voice command, and see who is knocking on our door while we are 600 miles away on vacation.

With the convenience and opportunity of the internet revolution comes serious privacy concerns. Every time we book a hotel, navigate a new town, buy movie tickets, or buy groceries online, we are putting a lot of personal information into the hands of a lot of different companies: banking information, health information, information about our location, our preferences, our habits. All of this information is likely used in some form or fashion by some of the world's most successful internet businesses to personalize our search results on Google or to deliver the content that we see on Facebook or Instagram.

As a member and former chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I have gotten an up-close look at the issue of consumer privacy. I believe that developing bipartisan consumer privacy legislation needs to be a priority in Congress.

Last year, as chairman of the Commerce Committee, I convened hearings into consumer data privacy and the accessing of millions of Facebook users' personal data by the political intelligence firm Cambridge Analytica. I also led a hearing to discuss the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and California's new privacy-related law. I have continued to focus on consumer privacy this year as chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet.

A few weeks ago, I convened a hearing to look at the use of persuasive technology on internet platforms like

Facebook and YouTube. Sites like YouTube and Facebook use algorithms and artificial intelligence driven by user-specific data to tailor just about everything you see on their platforms, from ads to the video that plays after the YouTube video you searched for. These algorithms can be useful. If you searched for Paul Simon's “Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes” on YouTube, you probably will not mind hearing “Graceland” next. If you are shopping for a new computer, you might find it useful to see an ad for the latest HP or Apple laptop.

These algorithms can also be deployed in far more troubling ways. For example, in June, the New York Times reported that YouTube's automated recommendation system was found to be automatically playing a video of children playing in their backyard pool to users who had watched sexually themed content. Algorithms can also be used to limit what news stories and other content people are exposed to.

As we learned from a witness at the hearing on persuasive technology, a former Google employee named Tristan Harris, these algorithms have the potential to be used to influence the thoughts and behaviors of literally billions of people.

For all of these reasons, I believe that transparency needs to be an essential part of the conversation. Americans should be clearly informed about how their personal data is being used and how companies influence and control what Americans see online.

Obviously, users have an obligation to exercise personal responsibility, but companies also need to provide greater transparency about how content is being filtered.

Given the ever-increasing size of our digital footprint and the increased privacy dangers that come along with that, the question isn't whether we will have Federal privacy legislation; it is what that legislation will look like.

I believe that any final bill should be bipartisan and should set a single national data privacy standard so that companies and consumers don't have to navigate 50 different sets of rules. We need to make consumer data privacy a priority while also preserving the ability of companies to innovate and deliver the cutting-edge services we rely on.

I also believe, as I mentioned, that any bill should include transparency provisions that give consumers a clear understanding of what is being done with their data. I believe consumers have the option to engage on internet platforms without being manipulated by algorithms powered by their own personal data.

This isn't the first time Congress has tackled new and emerging privacy concerns. Over the last few decades, Congress has acted to protect children online, protect sensitive healthcare information, and to modernize how institutions use consumer data.

I believe we can follow in that tradition by developing a new consumer privacy law, and that is why I am committed to working with colleagues from both parties to develop legislation to meet the privacy challenges we are facing today. I am confident that we can arrive at a strong consumer privacy bill for the digital age, and I will continue to make Americans' privacy a priority of mine here in Congress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last night, we saw the President of the United States, who has spent years maligning America, continue to malign Americans. The President once again whipped up a toxic brew of racism, xenophobia, and nativism, with his crowd chanting "send her back" about a duly elected Member of Congress and a U.S. citizen—one of the oldest and ugliest racist attacks against Americans of color.

The way the President appeals to the worst instincts of people and what was shouted and chanted at the rally last night without the President's upbraiding them was despicable and eerily familiar to what happens in dictatorships.

We all know that the only way President Trump will stop this is for Republicans—his own party—to demand it. The only way President Trump will stop is when Republicans on the other side have the honor, the decency, and the courage to tell him to stop. All we hear is silence and diversions from Leader McConnell.

So, America, if you don't like what the President says, if it gets you upset and makes your hairs stand on end, say: This is not the America I know and love. Whatever your political views, call your Senators and tell them to tell President Trump to stop this.

Argue the merits, argue the issues, but stop this appeal to the worst instincts—the worst instincts. And our Republican friends are silent.

History will show this. This is a moment. There is no John McCain anymore. When this kind of bitter racism emerged in his townhall meeting, he rejected it publicly when somebody used it against then-Candidate Obama. It went down in history as one of his finest moments. Where are the fine moments of my colleagues? There are 53 of them on the Republican side, and not one has spoken out strongly enough—not one.

They are quiet on everything else, too—things that matter to average

Americans to help make their lives better. Where are our Republican friends on the substantive issues that can help Americans of all colors and creeds—all colors and creeds—help Americans whether their families have been in this country for 11 generations, as some of my friends have been, or are new immigrants, as some of my friends are? In New York, we have everybody.

Here are some of the things our Republican friends can do. The House has passed legislation to improve our healthcare system and intervene in the lawsuit against eliminating protections for Americans with preexisting conditions, but Leader McConnell—once again silent—sent the bill to his legislative graveyard. The House has passed legislation to close loopholes in our gun background check system. This is no longer controversial. Ninety percent of Americans are for it—90 percent. Leader McConnell has sent that bill, too, to the legislative graveyard. Climate change, voting rights, pay-check fairness for women—all are in the legislative graveyard.

Where are my Republican friends on those issues? Why aren't they standing up and saying that we should at least debate them here in the Senate? Democrats have had to petition for weeks to even be allowed amendment votes on issues of importance to the American people.

It is a sorry state of affairs here in the Senate. I believe it has frustrated many of my Republican friends—I hear it from them privately—as well as us Democrats, because while we may not always agree on legislative solutions to a problem—we are not all supposed to agree; this is not a dictatorship—we want to debate the issues. We want to make forward progress.

My Republican colleagues know that they didn't come here just to rubberstamp an assembly line of the President's nominees, judicial and executive, and neither did we, but under Leader McConnell, legislative progress is the lowest and often last priority.

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Madam President, for example, yesterday, my colleague Senator Gillibrand asked unanimous consent to reauthorize the Victim Compensation Fund for the brave first responders who got sick after working on the pile after 9/11. It is as unobjectionable a piece of legislation as you can imagine. These are the people who rushed to the towers after 9/11. They got all kinds of gunk in their lungs and in their gastrointestinal systems and later developed cancer. Many of them are now gone, some of them are people I became friends with, like Ray Pfeifer and Detective Alvarez. And all we want to do is what we do with our soldiers when they are on the battlefield and get illnesses and wounds. We want to help them. That is all. Nothing more. Yet, over the course of the last several years, again, our Republican friends, aided and abetted by Leader McCon-

NELL, have either blocked this legislation or diluted it. But now it seems there is a breakthrough.

In the House, this bill passed with I think only 12 Republicans objecting. Conservative Members like MARK MEADOWS, who is head of the Freedom Caucus, Leader MCCARTHY, and Whip SCALISE all voted for it. Why can't we just bring it to the floor and vote on it here? We should.

My colleague from Kentucky, RAND PAUL, objected. Bring it to the floor. Bring it to the floor. Give him an amendment, but let's not just have this one lay in the legislative graveyard as well. I am hopeful it will not because as soon as it passes the Senate—and we don't want to amend it because that will send it back to the House, and who knows what will happen in the back-and-forth—if we just pass the bill as is and defeat an amendment that is not intended to help or improve it, it will go to the President's desk, and he will sign it. Even if he doesn't, there are veto-proof majorities in both Chambers to overcome it.

Senator GILLIBRAND, my friend and colleague who has done so much on this issue, will try again today to get this Chamber's consent to pass the bill. If the junior Senator from Kentucky again blocks the bill, I strongly urge the senior Senator from Kentucky, Leader McConnell, to put the bill on the floor. It is unacceptable that once again we are dealing with delays on legislation to help our brave 9/11 first responders, some of whom are gone, many of whom are ill, and many more of whom will get ill in the future from the diseases they acquired because of their bravery and selflessness on 9/11.

#### FACEAPP

Madam President, on another matter, over the past couple of days, millions of Americans have been downloading FaceApp—a viral tool that applies a little AI technology to a selfie to make your face look younger or older or add a beard. That seems like a benign new social media fad, but it actually may not be benign at all.

Who is the parent company of this app? Wireless Labs. It is based in, of all places, St. Petersburg, Russia. It also came to light that the app not only takes your picture but retains the right to access all your photos, your search history, and gives "perpetual, irrevocable, and worldwide" license to use your photo, your name, and your likeness. This is a breathtaking level of access—all too common in murky apps like these—that raises very substantial privacy concerns.

After everything we learned about Russia's unrepentant cyber aggression in 2016, the nexus of facial recognition, digital privacy, and a shadowy Russian company based in St. Petersburg, where so much of the Russian interference in our elections and interference with the internet emerged from, what happened with this app from Wireless Labs called FaceApp should set off alarm bells for all Americans.

At the very least, we need to know more about what the heck is going on here. I have called for the FTC and the FBI to investigate FaceApp to see if private information of millions of Americans could wind up in the wrong hands and used for very bad purposes. We need more than the assurances; we need the facts. The potential for our facial data and the data from all of our friends and families contained in our photos to fall into the hands of something like Russian intelligence or the Russian military is really troubling. I strongly urge the FTC and the FBI to get to the bottom of FaceApp.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, on one more issue, over the last few months, Americans have seen for themselves the awful conditions that migrant children are enduring at the Southern border. Faultless kids—many traveling alone, many very young—are subject to inhumane conditions, without the proper healthcare, nutrition, hygiene, or space. People have different views on immigration—we know that—but no one should want to see these kids treated so inhumanely. All they are doing is fleeing for a better life.

This weekend, I am leading a visit to the border with a number of my Democratic colleagues to investigate, inspect, and evaluate the latest conditions at these facilities. We hope—desperately hope—that the conditions have improved over the last several weeks. We will certainly report to the American people and to the Senate on what we find.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an experience that I had on Sunday. Sunday was the day, July 14, that President Trump had preannounced that massive deportation and immigration raids were about to begin. It looks like those raids maybe didn't start on Sunday, but the communities of immigrants in Virginia and elsewhere, who have been experiencing tremendous fear, had that fear dramatically accelerated by the announcement.

On Sunday, my wife and I, who live in Richmond, went to a town called Kilmarnock, about an hour and 10 minutes away from us, where my wife's parents are in a nursing home. They are 95 and 93 years old. We went down to spend the day with my in-laws and to take my mother-in-law to church at the local Episcopal church where she has long been a member.

I was struck by the readings. It was a day of fear for many immigrant com-

munities, and the readings that occurred in the Episcopal church, which are readings that are delivered in Catholic and Presbyterian and other churches on a set schedule, struck me as I was thinking about the fear in these communities.

For the Old Testament reading, normally, in most churches around the globe, Catholics and Episcopalians read from Deuteronomy, but for some reason, the pastor of this church—it was his goodbye ceremony, and he was leaving after serving for an interim—had switched the Old Testament reading and instead put in a reading from the Old Testament Book of Amos, Chapter 7, verses 7 through 9.

This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumbline," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumbline among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."

A plumbline is a device used when you are constructing something. It is just a weight on a string, nonmagnetized, and it will show up and down so that you can build something that is square and that has a solid foundation.

It is a reading about principles and values and what is a solid foundation.

The Gospel reading that we heard in our tiny church in Kilmarnock and around the world was the Good Samaritan story. Jesus is being pestered by a lawyer: What do I do to inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said: You know the answer. Tell me the answer.

And the lawyer does. He is smart.

Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus says: Fine. You know the answer. Just live that way.

But the lawyer, either to trap Jesus or because he was confused or he was trying to figure it out, says: But who is my neighbor?

And then Jesus tells the story of a person beaten on the road to Jericho and lying at the side of the road. Some passed by pretending not to notice, though they do notice. Some noticed and sort of half go over to help but don't do anything. But one person, a Samaritan—and in the Bible, Samaritans were despised minorities because they didn't worship like other people did—actually is the one who actually goes and helps.

As everyone knows, in the story he takes care of the person who is beaten. He takes him to an inn and pays the innkeeper and says: I will even pay you more. I will settle up. Make sure that you nurse him back to health.

This Samaritan was the one who was the neighbor. When Jesus then goes back to the lawyer and says: Which was the one who was the neighbor to the person who was beaten, the lawyer was so infected by the prejudice of his day that he can't even say "the Samaritan." Again, Samaritans were despised people, much like refugees or migrants

or migrant kids seem today to be despised people. The lawyer couldn't even make his lips say the word "Samaritan." Who is the neighbor to the person who was beaten? He can't even answer the question—the Samaritan. But he does know the answer, and instead he says: The one who showed him mercy.

Those were the readings that we heard—that the Lord will set a plumbline to try to determine whether the nation—in that instance, Israel—was behaving properly or not, and in terms of what the plumbline is, what is the moral standard. The Lord is encouraging us to be neighbors, and not just to the people like us, not just to the people who are our next-door neighbors but even to people who are down on their luck, beaten, despised, and hurting.

Sunday was also another day. It was Woody Guthrie's birthday. Woody Guthrie was a great American songwriter known for "This Land is Your Land" and so many other songs that are part of who we are as a people.

Woody Guthrie wrote a song in 1948 called "Plane Wreck at Los Gatos," and the song is more commonly known by the name "Deportee." We lived this history before.

In 1948 in California, there was an effort to deport so many people. There are times when we desperately want immigrants here to do the work, and then there are phases where they get deported.

Woody Guthrie was listening to the radio. This is a man born on July 14, the day that the President announced that the deportation raids would start. Woody Guthrie was listening to the radio in January of 1948, and he heard a story about a plane that was taking deportees back to Mexico. The plane crashed in Los Gatos Canyon, near L.A., and the pilot and some others were killed, and 32 deportees were killed.

Woody Guthrie was struck that when the story was told on the radio, they mentioned the names of the pilot and the copilot and the others who were working on the plane, but as for the 32 deportees who were killed, their names weren't mentioned. They were "just deportees."

Here are the lyrics to the Woody Guthrie song written based on an incident in January 1948, but our history repeats itself.

The crops are all in and the peaches are rott'ning,

The oranges piled in their creosote dumps;  
They're flying 'em back to the Mexican border

To pay all their money to wade back again  
Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye, Rosalita,  
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria;  
You won't have your names when you ride  
the big airplane,

All they will call you will be "deportees"  
My father's own father, he waded that river,  
They took all the money he made in his life;  
My brothers and sisters come working the  
fruit trees,  
And they rode the truck till they took down  
and died.

Some of us are illegal, and some are not  
wanted,

Our work contract's out and we have to move on;  
 Six hundred miles to that Mexican border.  
 They chase us like outlaws, like rustlers,  
 like thieves.  
 We died in your hills, we died in your deserts,  
 We died in your valleys and died on your plains.  
 We died 'neath your trees and we died in your bushes,  
 Both sides of the river, we died just the same.  
 The sky plane caught fire over Los Gatos Canyon,  
 A fireball of lightning, and shook all our hills,  
 Who are all these friends, all scattered like dry leaves,  
 The radio says, "They are just deportees."  
 Is this the best way we can grow our big orchards?  
 Is this the best way we can grow our good fruit?  
 To fall like dry leaves to rot on my topsoil  
 And be called by no name except "deportees"?

Along with several other colleagues earlier this week, I filed a bill called the Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act. It is a bill that has 40-plus cosponsors. It would do a number of things. It would set safety, health, and nutrition standards in these facilities whose pictures we are seeing—pictures that set an embarrassing example of a nation that should want to set a good example.

It would set minimum standards for food, nutrition, and healthcare. It would guarantee that children in these facilities would receive three meals a day and that the meals would be of adequate nutritional value. It would end the practice of family separation, unless ordered by a court, so the presumption would be that families could not be separated. It would provide additional resources for lawyers so that people can follow the rule of law and present evidence and present a case for asylum or refugee status, if there is a case to be presented. It would allow the restart of programs like the Family Case Management Program, which was a successful program that enabled people to be placed in community settings, not cages or jails or institutions, and have management to make sure that they then come to court dates on time.

The bill has a number of provisions that I think are worthy, but the thing that is the most important about the bill to me and why I agreed to cosponsor it is that I just think it puts our country in a position where we are setting the right example, not the wrong example. It puts our country in a position where if the plumbline of right and wrong is applied to us, we are on the right side of that judgment. It puts us in a position where as we are being directed to be good neighbors—including to people who are hurting, including to people who are suffering—we would be able to look ourselves in the mirror and look the world in the eye and say: The United States believes that we are good neighbors, and we are behaving in a neighborly way toward people.

These issues are of massive importance to the individuals involved. There was a story earlier this week about a border agent inquiring of a young girl: You are going to be separated. Your parents are going to be separated, and you have to decide whether you go with your mother or your father.

Why make a child of tender years make that choice? The young girl's name was Sofia. Many of us know the Virginia author, William Styron, and his book "Sophie's Choice." Sophie is forced to make an existential choice between her children in a concentration camp in Poland during World War II. That is the choice. That is the existential choice in the heart of that novel.

When tiny Sofia is being told: We are separating your mother and father, and you have to choose between them, should a child have to do that? None of us would tolerate that for our own family members. None of us would tolerate that for a member of our community. So is it fair to do that to a child of tender years because she happens to be somebody who has come from Central America?

These issues are of immense importance to those involved, to the Sophies, to the father and daughter who tried to get across a river a few weeks ago and drowned as they were trying to do it. They had come thousands of miles, and they were so close. All they wanted to do was apply for asylum legally: Can you accept my application? We are not trying to sneak across. We want to apply legally and have the laws of your country apply to us if we can justify that we should come. Please do that.

When they reached the border, we are taking so few applications now that they waited and they waited and they waited, and they eventually tried to cross a river and were drowned in the process—that heartbreaking picture of them having come so far and being so close that they could touch the bank. They almost got to touch the bank of this Nation they had dreamed might offer them a better life.

Their case, had they been able to apply, may or may not have been accepted. There is no guarantee they would have met the standards, but all they wanted was the opportunity to apply to enter this greatest Nation on Earth.

So I will just conclude and say I hope, in the days ahead—and I know there are discussions going on between Members of this body and between Members of this body and the White House about what we might do. I just want us to do something we can look in the mirror and be proud of. I want us to do something that we can use as an example for ourselves and for others. I want the plumbline that separates good and bad behavior and foundations that are morally strong versus those that are shaky and weak to judge us fairly. I want us to be neighborly. I want us to be neighborly in the best

traditions of whom we have always been.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, according to the Treasury, since 1960, Congress has acted 78 times to raise the debt ceiling. Let me run that past you again. Since 1960, we have had 78 debt ceiling increases, under Republican Presidents, Democratic Presidents, Republican Congresses, and Democratic Congresses. There has been a steady increase over and over again with the debt ceiling.

The debt ceiling was originally designed to provide a moment of fiscal restraint for Congress, a moment for Congress to look at the debt and determine whether to increase debt again or to determine how to restrain ourselves.

Going back to post-World War II, we had an enormous debt left over after World War II. That was the triggering mechanism for them. Throughout the Korean war, for instance, they didn't raise the debt ceiling. They found ways to find fiscal restraint because they had so much debt.

That doesn't even seem to be the conversation anymore. Now debt ceiling conversations are about what bill will we get it into to make sure it passes so we can just keep going. That moment of determining how we can deal with fiscal restraint seems to be gone.

Let me state just how severe this has become. Right now, our current debt to GDP—that is, gross national product—our debt compared to our gross national product is at 78 percent. That is an enormous number. That means, if you take all of the American economy, every single person in the entire country, group it all together, what they receive in pay, what they make, and put it all together, it would take 78 percent of every single person in the country to pay off our debt for an entire year.

If we were to maintain that debt-to-GDP ratio at 78 percent, just not get worse than where we are at \$22 trillion right now, we asked the Congressional Budget Office how much we would either have to raise in taxes or cut in spending each year to not make it worse. The answer that came back from the Congressional Budget Office was \$400 billion, but the hard part about that—not that \$400 billion is not bad enough—we would have to cut or raise in taxes \$400 billion every single year for 30 years in a row. That is not the original \$400 billion but a new \$400 billion every year for 30 years in a row just to keep us at a debt-to-GDP ratio of 78 percent.

That is not going to happen. There is not the will in this Congress to reduce

\$400 billion this year much less do it every single year for 30 years in a row.

So my simple push is this. We have to get to a real conversation about what we are going to do about our debt and how we are going to respond to this.

I have committed, around any kind of debt ceiling conversation, that the conversation should not be about just raising it and going on; it should be about how we are going to address our debt. I cannot support a debt ceiling that just raises the debt ceiling without any consideration about what we are going to do to actually pay off that debt or how we are going to get on top of it.

We have a broken process. We are not dealing with debt when we talk about debt ceilings anymore, and we are facing a September 30 deadline. There is already an ongoing rumor and conversation around the hallways about could we have another government shutdown.

In the last 40 years, we have had 21 government shutdowns—21—under Republican and Democratic Presidents and under Republican and Democratic Congresses—21 government shutdowns. The one that happened earlier this year was the longest one in history, but that doesn't mean it is the longest one that will ever happen. There may be a longer one coming. The challenge is, how do we solve this issue about debt? How do we deal with some of the simple processes like government shutdowns and how do we stop those?

Government shutdowns actually cause more spending to happen because it costs so much to prepare for it. When it happens, there is a greater cost, and when restarting it, there is greater cost again. All of that is lost money. It is just a waste.

So Senator MAGGIE HASSAN, the Democratic Senator from New Hampshire, and I have worked together to put a simple proposal together to stop government shutdowns. This is not rocket science. Most Americans can't leave their work and walk away, especially if they are small business owners. They can't walk away from their jobs unless the job is done. That is just the nature of it. So our simple idea is this. If we get to October 1—and the end of the fiscal year ends on September 30—and the work is not done on all the appropriations bills, we would have what is called a continuing resolution kick in. The funding would continue to go the same as it did the year before. It basically is putting everybody on hold but is still moving. That would protect Federal workers and make sure Federal workers and their families are not affected by the government shutdown. It would protect the taxpayers, making sure they are not having to deal with "I can't get a permit" and "I can't get an answer on the phone from a government agency because there is a Federal shutdown." So the Federal workers and American people would be held harmless, but Mem-

bers of Congress, our staffs, and the staff of the White House Office of Management and Budget, in both the House and the Senate, would all be here in Washington, DC, with no travel.

Now that may not seem like a big issue. You may say: So what. It would mean we are in session every weekday, every weekend, and cannot leave to go back and see our families. We cannot do our work that has to be done in the States, and we have work to do in our States as well. We cannot go on any kind of codel travel. We cannot take any other travel of any sort, and every day we have what is called a mandatory quorum call in the Senate and in the House. We are in session weekdays and weekends continually until the budget work is done.

I had folks say: Well, that doesn't seem like that big of an incentive.

I can assure you, the most precious commodity to Members of the House and Senate, our staff, and to members of the Office of Management and Budget is the same precious commodity every American has. It is time—time.

If we lose the time so we can't do all of the other things we need to do until we get the budget work done, we will get the budget work done because there are a lot of things on our schedule, but our first priority should be the budget work that needs to be done.

This puts us in a position to basically do what my mom did to my brother and me. When my brother and I had an argument, my mom would lock the two of us in a room and say: You guys work this out. When you are done, you can come out of the room, but you guys keep talking until you settle it. Quite frankly, my mom would be a pretty good role model for this Congress. Lock us in the room, keep us debating until we solve it.

We had the longest shutdown in American history this past time, and it started right before Christmas. What did the Members of Congress do? They left. They left. They went home for Christmas. They went away. While Federal workers did not have their paychecks coming in, Members of Congress left town.

It is as simple and straightforward as this: Federal workers should be held harmless, and Members of Congress should be kept to stay and work it out.

Senator HASSAN and I continue to work through this. We gained wide bipartisan support. It went through the first of two committees—10 to 2 as it passed the committee. Now it has a second committee to go through before it comes here. We want to build bipartisan support to say: We will have disagreements on budget. We will have disagreements on spending. But we should keep debating until we solve it. But do not loop the Federal workers and their families into this, and certainly don't harm the taxpayers in the process.

We look forward to trying to get some things resolved in this place and to keeping the debate going until we do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues a simple question. There is a lawsuit that is proceeding through the court system right now that has succeeded the district court level, that has had a hearing at the appellate court level, and may be speeding toward the Supreme Court. It is a lawsuit that was brought by 20 Republican attorneys general. It is a lawsuit that is being supported by the Trump administration. It is a lawsuit that many of my colleagues have gone on record saying they support. It is a lawsuit to undo the entirety of the Affordable Care Act, to throw out insurance for 20 million Americans and to end protections for people with preexisting conditions. It is an attempt to do through the court system what this Congress refused to do, which is to obliterate the Affordable Care Act and all the insurance it provides for people without any plan for what comes next.

I have served in both the House and the Senate, and I listened for a long time to my Republican colleagues say that while they don't like the Affordable Care Act, they certainly understand that there has to be something else, and that something else should be just as good as the Affordable Care Act. In fact, the President himself said that whatever plan he supported in substitute of the Affordable Care Act would have better insurance, cheaper insurance, and would insure more people.

Republicans never came up with that plan. In fact, the replacement they jammed through the House of Representatives in 2017 was much worse than the Affordable Care Act. The Congressional Budget Office said that 24 million people would lose insurance because of that piece of legislation and rates would potentially skyrocket for people with preexisting conditions.

There has never been a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. The only plan from the beginning has been to repeal it. Now that Congress has said it won't repeal the Affordable Care Act—why? because Americans do not want the Affordable Care Act repealed with nothing to replace it—now that Congress won't do it because the American people don't support the repeal of the protections for sick people in the Affordable Care Act, Republicans are trying to get the courts to do it.

We are perhaps 60 days away from the Sixth Circuit invalidating the entirety of the Affordable Care Act. Likely, if that is the case, the judgment will ultimately be rendered by the Supreme Court. But that could come as soon as the beginning of next year. We could still be months away from a humanitarian catastrophe in this country in which the entirety of the Affordable Care Act is invalidated and what to do about it is put back before Congress.



It would stand to reason that if your plan is to try to get the entire Affordable Care Act thrown out in Congress, you would maybe start thinking about what would replace it. As far as I can tell, Republicans have no plan for what happens if the Affordable Care Act is overturned. As far as I can tell, my Republican colleagues have spent no time thinking about what would happen if they actually end up catching the car they have been chasing.

What happens if the lawsuit succeeds? What happens if the Affordable Care Act is struck down? What comes next? We can't accept—and I don't think my Republican colleagues would want to accept—millions of people losing coverage overnight or insurance companies being able to discriminate against you because your child has a history of cancer or an insurance company being able to go back to capping the amount of insurance you get on an annual or lifetime basis.

It is mere fantasy to think that we can reproduce the protections in the Affordable Care Act if we are not talking about it ahead of time.

I am coming back on the floor today, as I have several times in the last few months, to ask my Republican colleagues to either withdraw your support for this lawsuit, stop the administration from being able to pursue it in court, or start a serious discussion about how you are going to protect care for everyone who has it today—not a handful of people who have it today but all the people who have it today—while this lawsuit is moving through the system.

My Republican colleagues have been queried as to whether they support this lawsuit. The answers are all over the map, which tells you once again that nobody on the Republican side has really thought this one through.

One Republican Senator says: I actually don't think the courts are eventually ever going to strike it down.

Another says: I am ready for the lawsuit to succeed. I would love to go back in and actually deal with healthcare again.

Another one says: Do I hope the lawsuit succeeds? I do.

Another says: I can't say I hope it succeeds. I think the strategy from here on that I have adopted in my own mind is repair.

Another says: My hope and belief is we won't strike the law down.

The answers are all over the map. That is fine. The Republicans can have a varied set of opinions on whether the lawsuit should succeed, but none of those individuals who are quoted giving various opinions as to whether they would like the lawsuit to succeed have a concrete plan for what comes next.

Let's just be honest. It is mere fantasy to think that a divided Congress is going to be able to, in an emergency, come up with a plan to keep 20 million people insured and keep preexisting conditions protections for the 133 million Americans who depend on them.

We can't pass a budget through Congress. We have trouble passing a Higher Education Act reauthorization or the Violence Against Women Act. How on Earth are we going to pass a reordering of the American healthcare system when it is blown to bits by a Supreme Court decision that no one is ready for?

That is why I am down on the floor today. I am going to keep on bringing this up because I just can't accept this world in which we live today in which half of this Chamber is just sort of boxing their ears and closing their eyes to this legal strategy. If it succeeds, as many Republicans hope it does, all we are going to be talking about here is healthcare. Overnight, we will be consumed by this topic, and we will not be able to come up with a solution that involves the same amount of protections that exist today.

Why repeal it? Why not continue to work on making the system better without holding hostage all of the Americans who rely on it today? That is a much better path of action. Keep the Affordable Care Act in place. Work together on ways that we can fix the existing healthcare system. Don't create a chaotic situation with the wholesale repeal of the entire act, putting lives in jeopardy.

There is no plan on behalf of the Republicans as to what to do if the ACA is overturned. I feel that we need to remind the country of that over and over again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL BENJAMIN KOPP

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 10 years ago today, CPL Benjamin Kopp's spirit departed from this world, but he remains with us in far more than memory.

Ben was raised in Minnesota, where his mother described him as a boy's boy. He played in the dirt with toy trucks and revered his great-grandfather, a decorated veteran from World War II.

Then came 9/11, which changed Ben's life forever, just as it changed the lives of so many Americans. Ben was only 13—little more than a boy—but on that day of tragedy, he felt the call of duty to his country. Moreover, he sensed a rendezvous with destiny. Remembering his great-grandfather, the heroic veteran, Ben enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18, shipping off for basic training at Fort Benning not long after his high school graduation. There, he grew into a man and an Army Ranger. He was assigned to fight with the Army's famed 75th Ranger Regiment.

He served two deployments in Iraq and then went to Afghanistan in 2009. There, Ben and his buddies were exposed to heavy combat, as Rangers usually are. On June 10, 2009, they were engaged in an hours-long, intense firefight with Taliban insurgents in Helmand Province. Ben was leading a machine gun crew, providing suppressive fire for a group of Rangers amid

enemy onslaught. Ben exposed himself and was shot behind the knee right in an artery. He was evacuated from the battlefield and placed in an induced coma.

Despite the surgeon's best efforts, Ben never recovered from the loss of blood and cardiac arrest he had suffered. Eight days later, on July 18, 2009, at the age of only 21, at Walter Reed Medical Center, Ben Kopp returned home to the Lord. Yet Ben is with us still. The heart of this Ranger beats on even today. Let me explain.

Before deploying, Ben did a lot of paperwork, as all soldiers do. On one form, he checked the box to be an organ donor. Where it asked which organs he wished to donate, he simply wrote "any that are needed." In death, as in life, Ben lived up to the Ranger creed. He shouldered more than his share of the task, "one-hundred-percent and then some." So just 2 days after Ben's heart stopped beating, it beat anew in the chest of Judy Meikle, an Illinois woman who waited 7 months just to get on the organ donation list. "How can you have a better heart," Judy said as she recovered. "I have the heart of a 21-year-old Army Ranger war hero beating in me."

Ultimately, scores of people came to benefit from the sacrifice of this young soldier in Minnesota from his very blood and bones. Four lives were saved, all told, because Ben gave his all, his very body, for their sake. Ben departed 10 years ago, but his legacy lives on in the patients whose lives he touched and through the brave work of his mother, Jill, who has devoted her life to veterans' causes. This year, she organized the second annual Freedom Walk to the Wall and challenged America to walk 1 million miles in honor of our fallen heroes.

The tragedy of Ben's loss has touched Jill in unexpected ways as well. She has remained close with the Army Rangers who served alongside Ben and even with those who had never met him. Just recently, two freshly minted Rangers from Minnesota reached out to speak with Jill. You could say that she lost her son but gained a family of Rangers.

In Genesis, it is written that the Lord God created Eve in the rib of Adam, the first man. When God brought her to Adam, He said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." That mysterious passage takes on new meaning when we reflect on stories like Ben's.

Thanks to his willing sacrifice, Ben connected with scores of his countrymen in one of the most intimate ways imaginable. For all time, they will remain bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh. Rangers lead the way. That is what new Rangers learn at Fort Benning. In life and in death, CPL Ben Kopp led the way, and his story will inspire us for many years to come, for, indeed, he is with us still.

I yield the floor.

## VOTE ON CORKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Corker nomination?

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 39, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 216 Ex.]

## YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeben	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

## NAYS—39

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Isakson	Stabenow

The nomination was confirmed.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Blanchard nomination?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

## YEAS—54

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeben	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	McConnell	Sullivan
Cruz	McSally	Thune
Daines	Moran	Tillis
Enzi	Murkowski	Toomey
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

## NAYS—40

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	
Gillibrand	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Isakson	Stabenow

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Donald R. Tapia, of Arizona, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

## TRADE

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, something I want to talk about today is

something that you and I both care a lot about, and that is farming families and trade. For those of us who grew up on or near farming families, we know that there are a lot of things that are beyond the control of families who farm. For farming and ranching families, the only real certainty is uncertainty.

The only thing you know for sure, if your mom or dad is a dairy farmer, like my mom and dad were, is that you don't know anything for sure. You don't know about the weather. You don't know absolutely for sure that all of your equipment is going to work exactly like you need it to and at exactly the time you need it to.

In some farming situations, you don't know whether the help you need is going to be available the day you need it. The watermelons can't wait. The strawberries can't wait. The tomatoes can't wait. But you can't have a staff on all the time, ready to pick the watermelon the 2 weeks they need to be picked, or whatever those farmers have to deal with.

Uncertainty is part of farming. That is why trade agreements with other countries are so important to America's agriculture. This is a part of our economy that not only feeds our country but goes so far toward feeding the whole world. Trade agreements can provide a little bit of certainty about markets and the opportunities people have to sell the products they are able to grow.

In Missouri, agriculture is an \$88 billion industry. It employs nearly 400,000 people in our State. Missouri farmers and ranchers export more than \$4 billion worth of products every year.

Trade deals that lower tariffs that are paid by Missouri farming and ranching families are a good deal now. I could go a long way beyond this, too, because not only does the agricultural sector impact people who make agricultural products but seeds and chemicals that we need fewer and fewer of all the time because people who make and repair machinery get more effective all the time. So both in the seed and chemical area but also people in transportation, people in insurance, people who run the local coffee shop, people whom the school district depends on for those property taxes are all benefited by a strong agricultural sector.

We make lots of other things in our State too. We make airplanes. We make pickup trucks. We make cars. We make beer cans. We make all kinds of things that are impacted by trade, but I say to the Presiding Officer, particularly when you and I are out talking in our neighboring States with the communities we deal with in agriculture, trade is a top-of-the-line issue.

It is just an important part of the economy of most of our States, frankly. Because of our location, where we live, infrastructure is critical. We are also the hub for products that go all over North America. Integrating that infrastructure—water, rail, cars, and

trucks—makes a difference in how we compete.

Canada and Mexico are our two biggest trading partners in, I am sure, our State and in the country. In recent months, Mexico has become the biggest trading partner we have. Canada is the next biggest trading partner we have. These are not inconsequential relationships.

When the United States signed the North America Free Trade Agreement 25 years ago, it did a lot to open those markets for our products and to not only strengthen our economy but to strengthen the neighborhood. Our exports of food and agricultural products to Canada and Mexico quadrupled under the NAFTA agreement. The treaty also helped to strengthen ties among our countries.

You know, a strong Mexico is actually good for us. We have these problems at the border right now that Mexico is trying to help us solve. Almost nobody is coming from Mexico; they are coming through Mexico. And why aren't they coming from Mexico like they did 25 years ago? Because the Mexican economy is an economy that works for people who live there. A strong Canada is good for us. The daily trade over that Canadian-U.S. border—things passing back and forth—is incredible and has been for a long time, but it is also much stronger than it used to be. Keeping these connections strong is essential.

Trade increases our economic security, but it also increases our national security. Living in a good neighborhood is what we all want to do, and that is the value we have seen out of this agreement for the last 25 years. The agreement could have been better, and the President has made it better. The USMCA is going to be better than NAFTA. No NAFTA would be a bad thing; NAFTA replaced by USMCA would be a good thing.

It is time that we begin to build on what we have learned in those 25 years and move into this century with a new agreement that works for farming families, for ranching families, for workers, for people who make automobiles, airplanes, and other things. This leads to more American jobs, and it leads to great benefit for us economically.

But, again, let me repeat, the national security impact of having two neighbors that want to work with us. What we just saw the President negotiate with Mexico, where they are helping secure that much narrower border at the southern tip of Mexico more than we would be able to do at the much bigger northern border, that is helpful. Where they are working to help people stay there as their cases are being heard, that is helpful to our country. It is easier to keep people there and have their cases heard than let them disperse throughout the entire United States.

Certainly, we hope to gain from the new USMCA treaty, but we hope our neighbors also benefit from that treaty

and know they will. The three countries all signed this agreement in November. Mexico has ratified it already. The Prime Minister of Canada says they stand ready to call their Parliament back into session to ratify it. As soon as it is clear, they are going to.

Trade is essential. All three of our countries agree on that. Democrats and Republicans agree on that. Members of the House and Senate agree on that. Now what we need to agree on is how to have a time to vote and approve this deal. Let's give our economy the boost it needs. Let's give our neighborhood the strength we have seen develop over the last 25 years.

We hope our friends in the House bring this to the floor. It will be a bipartisan vote. It will be a comfortably passed vote. But you have to decide to have a vote for that to happen, and I hope we are close to that moment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### BROWSER ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, today I rise and seek my colleagues' support for the BROWSER Act, which is a bipartisan piece of legislation that will protect consumers' data privacy and offer tech companies the freedom they need to innovate.

This is something we are hearing so much about. How do you protect your privacy online, or do you have privacy online? The BROWSER Act is the bipartisan solution to that.

Innovation really puts the words and the wisdom of the world at our fingertips. Think about it. A click of a mouse, a touch of the screen, and everything you want to know appears right there in front of you. Now that we have all downloaded a myriad of apps and we are using search engines every single day, it is commonplace. But what we have learned and what people are aware of now more than ever is that in the process of doing this, they have given away something vitally important and precious; that is, their privacy and their information. I call it your "virtual you" because it is you, your presence, that is right there online.

As your transactional life has grown online—you pay your bills, you do your shopping, you order your groceries, you order dinner to be delivered—every time you do that, you are giving these apps a peek into your privacy, into your habits, and there is really quite a battle going on. Who owns the "virtual you"? Is it you or the bank or the insurance company or the app that is providing that service?

Data is the bedrock of most tech companies' revenue streams. The higher the quality of that data, the more money they are going to get for the ad space they sell. The more money they get for the ad space they sell, the more profit they are going to put into their pocket.

When you look at all these apps—Facebook, YouTube, Instagram,

Google, Snapchat—all of these apps are taking your information. They mine your information, and it gets sold—sold for those that are placing ads on your screen.

There is a reason companies provide convoluted, pages-long disclosure, full disclosure and privacy policies in tiny print so small you can't read it. It is the same reason that watchdogs warn consumers that if the service is free, you are the product. If the service is free—take a look at these—you are the product. You are because it is your information that they want.

Now, I will tell you this: We have come to a season in our society where we have a different story just about every single day of some type of bad behavior from one of these companies. The current story today is about FaceApp, and I think that if I went around the room and asked those who are younger if they have used any of these face-altering apps, they would probably say: Yeah, we downloaded one. They are really a lot of fun to play with.

Here is the danger: That app—these face-altering apps and FaceApp—is not limited to just bits of personal information that are going to be appended to a data set. It could be your image used publicly—with your consent, of course, if you agreed to the fine print by clicking "download" or "get." With that, you give your privacy away.

Consumers have really grown accustomed to clicking the "get" button. They say: I don't have time to read all of this. It would take too long. I don't understand what it means. I just want to use this app. It is convenient.

A quick scroll through an average Instagram feed this morning revealed post after post of artificially-aged faces, all thanks to FaceApp, which now owns those images and can do whatever it wants with those images because you unintentionally, when you clicked "get," gave them the permission to use them.

This is one of those things where you have to say: Buyer beware and know what you are getting into. Ask anybody who downloaded that app last night, and I bet you they have a little bit of buyer's remorse going on, and they probably wish they hadn't done it and opened those photos to being used by people they will never ever know.

Over the past few years, we have watched tech companies lose control of their own narrative, and that is for good reason. Customers feel invaded and are demanding a more satisfying response to the current parade of controversy—something more than just "Oh, we are going to do better in the future." It is clear that the tech company can no longer regulate itself. Big Tech does not have the appetite for self-regulation.

That is why I welcome my colleagues on each side of the aisle to sign on to the BROWSER Act. This bill really has been years in the making. I first introduced it in the House of Representatives during the 115th Congress, but my

work on the issue began long before that, as I chaired the Privacy Working Group in the House.

What this legislation, the BROWSER Act, would do is it would set up a Federal compliance framework that tech companies would use as a guide. It would require companies to secure a clear opt-in from you, the consumer, before collecting sensitive information about your health, your finances, or your Social Security numbers—things that are important and personal to you. They would have to get your explicit permission in order to use those. For less sensitive information, like an IP address or your browsing history or your search and your purchase history, companies would have to give customers the opportunity to opt-out so that they would not have the permission to share that.

Companies won't be able to deny service to anyone refusing to waive their privacy, but the Federal Trade Commission will keep the playing field level by applying the rules equally across the entire internet ecosystem.

To recap that, you would have opt-in for sensitive information and opt-out for nonsensitive information and one set of rules, with one regulator, for the entire internet ecosystem and a tech platform that would not be able to throw you off because you said: Hey, I want to protect myself and my family.

I think it is important, too, to realize that the BROWSER Act does not over-regulate the industry, but what this does is it says: Let's have guidelines. Let's have some guardrails up here. Let's have a light-touch regulation that is going to protect the consumer and allow the consumer to protect their "virtual you," their presence online.

Lately, what we have seen is some blowback from some very public mistakes that have chased some of these big tech companies into the arms of the regulators, making them all too happy to accept government-mandated rules in lieu of internal standards. You have heard it. You have heard some people like Facebook saying: Oh, my goodness. We will accept regulation now. We want the Federal Government more involved. What they are trying to do is block out innovation and competition and new startups because they control the marketplace.

Google. Ninety percent of search is done by Google.

Recently, Facebook got a \$5 billion fine from the Federal Trade Commission. I said that actually wasn't enough. It should have been more like \$50 billion when you look at the business Facebook has built and the valuation they have built. They are a big advertising company. They have this platform. They get you on that platform. They build their valuation off the number of eyeballs they capture to that, the users they have and, remember what I said earlier, the high quality of the data. That is money in their revenue stream, and it is profit in their

pockets. Their bad behavior will not change unless we change the way they are going to be able to do business.

Understanding the business of Big Tech is half the battle. I have been at this for years, going back to my days in Tennessee, my home State, as we looked at film and entertainment and music and moving from analog to digital in the economy, coming to Congress, working in the House on this issue.

I will state that the ins and outs of this industry is not something that can be learned in a day or something you can be briefed on and then all of a sudden you are an expert in that area. If you think you know it all—what I have learned in tech is, the more you learn the less you know, and you have to keep working on it if you are going to properly regulate the industry.

I thank my colleague Senate Judiciary Chairman LINDSEY GRAHAM for recognizing the need for institutional knowledge by this body and for asking me to lead the committee's new technology task force. This is a bipartisan group. We will meet regularly with leaders in the tech industry, and we will talk a good bit about data, privacy, competition, prioritization, censorship, and other issues that will arise. Our first meeting is actually going to be later today. I would encourage my friends in the Senate to use this time and use this task force as a resource and study up because these issues are not going to go away. It is time for us to do something on the issues of privacy, data security, censorship, and prioritization.

To my colleagues who are really very skeptical that we can use a lighter touch in regulating Big Tech, I want to say this: Washington is historically very bad at culture change. They are very bad at it. What we do know is, when looking at the technology that now underpins every single industrial sector in this country, that technology goes through a life cycle, if you will, in about 18 months. We know there cannot be heavy-handed regulation. We know we cannot regulate to a technology. We know that the guidelines need to be put in place, and the guardrails need to be laid down.

We need to make certain businesses are looking at their consumers, and they are saying: You can trust us to be a good steward of your information. Consumers, citizens—Tennesseans, in my case—need to know I have asked the tech companies to work to restore the trust and confidence that is needed by the online consumer and to move away from having it understood by people—understood in the negative—that if the service is free, you are the product.

Let's join together, in a bipartisan fashion, and give the American online consumer the ability to control and to own their virtual "you," which is them and their presence online.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNT).

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ONE SMALL STEP TO PROTECT HUMAN HERITAGE IN SPACE ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 50 years ago, more than 650 million men, women, and children from nearly every corner of the Earth gathered around radios and televisions with wide eyes and quickly beating hearts. They gathered to witness one of the greatest triumphs of ingenuity and cooperation in human history. Scrawled across television screens were the words never seen before: "Live from the Moon."

I remember that moment vividly. I was 10 years old, and I was in France with my mother and my French family, my grandma and grandpa, and we huddled around a little black and white TV in my grandma's home on July 20, 1969. It was evening in France when the landing occurred. Our eyes were glued to the screen and we saw this grainy video, and there was little prickly audio broadcast of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin as they were attempting to do what no human had ever attempted to do before.

Almost 2 hours after the landing, as we held our breath and saw the landing, Commander Armstrong created the first human boot print not on planet Earth. In that moment, I remember thinking that the astronauts on the Moon didn't just represent America at that moment. They also represented my family who lived in France and their excitement. They really represented everybody around the world. They were representing humanity and what is achievable when you dream big.

I have come to the floor today to honor the incredible achievement of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, as well as the 400,000 people around the world who made the *Apollo 11* landing possible. Among those were NASA's now-famous "Hidden Figures"—African-American women pioneers—including Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughn, who were responsible for calculating trajectories to get Apollo astronauts to and from the Moon.

Ultimately, this achievement was the result of the perseverance of countless individuals and, of course, the American taxpayers who, after numerous high-profile failures, including the loss of the very first Apollo crew, continued to support the Apollo Program.

Over the last few months there have been celebrations of this anniversary around the world because the achievements of Apollo were achievements for humanity. Here in the Senate I was

proud to introduce legislation with Senator TED CRUZ that would establish the first of its kind of Federal protections for the Apollo landing sites. Our One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act would permanently protect the Apollo landing sites from intentional and unintentional disruptions by future Moon missions. It would ensure that any activities destined for the Moon and licensed by the U.S. Government would have to follow NASA's preservation guidelines for the Apollo sites.

In recent years, a number of countries and private companies have announced plans to send spacecraft to the Moon. For example, India just recently delayed a launch of a spacecraft that is destined for the Moon, and China has announced plans to establish a permanent presence on the Moon.

Our legislation will set an example for other countries to protect these sites for their historical, archaeological, scientific, and engineering value and to help ensure that future lunar activities do not disturb these sites.

I am pleased that last week we were able to pass the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act out of the Senate Commerce Committee, thanks to the leadership of Chairman ROGER WICKER and Ranking Member MARIA CANTWELL and their staffs.

Today I ask the Senate to take one small step in passing this legislation—a first of its kind conservation measure to honor and preserve human heritage in space.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 152, S. 1694.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1694) to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct activities in outer space to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center carrying Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins.

(2) July 20, 2019, will mark the 50th anniversary of the date on which the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the Moon and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on a celestial body off the Earth.

(3) The landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft and humanity's first off-world footprints are achievements unparalleled in history, a direct product of the work and perseverance of the

more than 400,000 individuals who contributed to the development of the Apollo missions on the shoulders of centuries of science and engineering pioneers from all corners of the world.

(4) Among the thousands of individuals who have contributed to the achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as “NASA”) are African-American women such as Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden, who made critical contributions to NASA space programs. Katherine Johnson worked at NASA for 35 years and calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 landing and the trajectories for the spaceflights of astronauts Alan Shepard and John Glenn. Katherine Johnson, together with many other individuals the work of whom often went unacknowledged, helped broaden the scope of space travel and charted new frontiers for humanity's exploration of space.

(5) The landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft was made on behalf of all humankind, and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were accompanied by messages of peace from the leaders of more than 70 countries.

(6) The lunar landing sites of the Apollo 11 spacecraft, the robotic spacecraft that preceded the Apollo 11 mission, and the crewed and robotic spacecraft that followed, are of outstanding universal value to humanity.

(7) Such landing sites—

(A) are the first archaeological sites with human activity that are not on Earth;

(B) provide evidence of the first achievements of humankind in the realm of space travel and exploration; and

(C) contain artifacts and other evidence of human exploration activities that remain a potential source of cultural, historical, archaeological, anthropological, scientific, and engineering knowledge.

(8) On July 20, 2011, NASA published the voluntary guidance entitled “NASA's Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts”.

(9) In March 2018, the Office of Science and Technology Policy published a report entitled “Protecting & Preserving Apollo Program Lunar Landing Sites & Artifacts”.

(10) Space-faring entities based outside the United States have the capacity to land on the Moon.

(11) The licensing requirements under this Act are applicable only to United States-based lunar activities and therefore have limited efficacy for protecting the Apollo 11 landing site, other similar historic sites, and lunar artifacts from disturbances caused by space-faring entities based outside the United States.

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

(1) as commercial enterprises and more countries acquire the ability to land on the Moon, it is necessary to ensure the recognition and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site and other historic landing sites in acknowledgment of the human effort and innovation the sites represent;

(2) the Apollo 11 landing site, other similar historic landing sites, lunar artifacts, and the environment surrounding such sites and artifacts merit legal protection from disturbance to prevent irredeemable loss of sites and artifacts that are of archeological, anthropological, historical, scientific, and engineering significance and value; and

#### SEC. 3. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LUNAR LANDING SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Federal agency that issues a license to conduct a lunar activity shall require each applicant for such a license—

(1) to agree to abide by the recommendations described in subsection (b); or

(2) in the case of a lunar activity that requires a license from more than one Federal agency, to

certify under penalty of perjury as provided in paragraph (1) or (2), as applicable, of section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, that the applicant has submitted an application for a license for such activity to another Federal agency that satisfies paragraph (1).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED.—The recommendations described in this subsection are—

(1) “NASA's Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts” issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on July 20, 2011, and updated on October 28, 2011; and

(2) any successor heritage preservation recommendations, guidelines, or principles relating to the protection and preservation of Government lunar artifacts issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(c) EXEMPTIONS.—A Federal agency issuing a license described in subsection (a) may, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, exempt specific lunar activities of an applicant from the historic preservation agreement or certification under subsection (a) if such bona fide activities are determined to have legitimate and significant historical, archeological, anthropological, scientific, or engineering value.

(d) AUTHORITY TO ASSESS PENALTY FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency issuing a license described in subsection (a) may assess a penalty fee on the holder of such license for conduct that violates one or more terms of the license relating to the agreement under subsection (a)(1).

(2) AMOUNT.—The penalty fee amount assessed under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) commensurate with the nature and extent of the violation; and

(B) sufficient to deter future violations.

(e) LUNAR ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “lunar activity” means an action or endeavor in space that—

(1) is intended to be lunar in nature, including lunar orbit, landing, and impact; or

(2) has a greater likelihood than not of becoming lunar in nature, including unintentional orbit and impact.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Peters' amendment to the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to, and the substitute, as amended, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 927) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the sense of Congress with respect to collaboration with other countries)

In section 2(b), strike paragraph (3) and insert the following:

(3) the President should work with other countries to develop best practices to ensure the protection of historic lunar landing sites and artifacts.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PETERS. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1694), as amended, was passed.



S. 1694

*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 “One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center carrying Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins.

(2) July 20, 2019, will mark the 50th anniversary of the date on which the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the Moon and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on a celestial body off the Earth.

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(4) Among the thousands of individuals who have contributed to the achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as “NASA”) are African-American women such as Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden, who made critical contributions to NASA space programs. Katherine Johnson worked at NASA for 35 years and calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 landing and the trajectories for the spaceflights of astronauts Alan Shepard and John Glenn. Katherine Johnson, together with many other individuals the work of whom often went unacknowledged, helped broaden the scope of space travel and charted new frontiers for humanity’s exploration of space.

(5) The landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft was made on behalf of all humankind, and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were accompanied by messages of peace from the leaders of more than 70 countries.

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landing site, other similar historic sites, and lunar artifacts from disturbances caused by space-faring entities based outside the United States.

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(1) as commercial enterprises and more countries acquire the ability to land on the Moon, it is necessary to ensure the recognition and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site and other historic landing sites in acknowledgment of the human effort and innovation the sites represent;

(2) the Apollo 11 landing site, other similar historic landing sites, lunar artifacts, and the environment surrounding such sites and artifacts merit legal protection from disturbance to prevent irremediable loss of sites and artifacts that are of archeological, anthropological, historical, scientific, and engineering significance and value; and

(3) the President should work with other countries to develop best practices to ensure the protection of historic lunar landing sites and artifacts.

**SEC. 3. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LUNAR LANDING SITES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Federal agency that issues a license to conduct a lunar activity shall require each applicant for such a license—

(1) to agree to abide by the recommendations described in subsection (b); or

(2) in the case of a lunar activity that requires a license from more than one Federal agency, to certify under penalty of perjury as provided in paragraph (1) or (2), as applicable, of section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, that the applicant has submitted an application for a license for such activity to another Federal agency that satisfies paragraph (1).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED.—The recommendations described in this subsection are—

(1) “NASA’s Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts” issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on July 20, 2011, and updated on October 28, 2011; and

(2) any successor heritage preservation recommendations, guidelines, or principles relating to the protection and preservation of Government lunar artifacts issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(c) EXEMPTIONS.—A Federal agency issuing a license described in subsection (a) may, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, exempt specific lunar activities of an applicant from the historic preservation agreement or certification under subsection (a) if such bona fide activities are determined to have legitimate and significant historical, archeological, anthropological, scientific, or engineering value.

(d) AUTHORITY TO ASSESS PENALTY FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency issuing a license described in subsection (a) may assess a penalty fee on the holder of such license for conduct that violates one or more terms of the license relating to the agreement under subsection (a)(1).

(2) AMOUNT.—The penalty fee amount assessed under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) commensurate with the nature and extent of the violation; and

(B) sufficient to deter future violations.

(e) LUNAR ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “lunar activity” means an action or endeavor in space that—

(1) is intended to be lunar in nature, including lunar orbit, landing, and impact; or

(2) has a greater likelihood than not of becoming lunar in nature, including unintentional orbit and impact.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported amendment to the title 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported title amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct lunar activities to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site, and for other purposes.”.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague Senator CRUZ for helping me develop and advance this legislation.

Thanks, as well, to my colleagues on the House Science Committee, Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Members HORN, LUCAS, and BABIN for their leadership and support in the House of Representatives.

Fifty years ago, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin left a plaque on the lunar surface. On that plaque is a map of Earth and the following words:

Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the Moon. July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind.

Our grandchildren’s grandchildren should have an opportunity to observe this plaque.

I thank my colleagues for taking this small step with me to ensure that the opportunity will remain for generations to come and that the spirit of Apollo—of ingenuity, of cooperation, and of peace—will inspire generations to come.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, this week marks an extraordinary milestone in the history of humanity.

Fifty years ago, on July 16, 1969, the entire world watched in awe as the *Apollo 11* mission took off from Cape Canaveral. Four days later, on July 20, again the entire world held its breath as the lunar lander made its descent and as Neil Armstrong and then Buzz Aldrin both stepped onto the surface of the Moon.

As Neil Armstrong famously said, “It’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

On Saturday, 50 years will have passed since man first stepped onto the Moon. We are celebrating that as a nation, and we are celebrating that across the world—the 50 years that have passed since. We are also looking



forward, with hope and optimism, to the next 50 years of space exploration and America's continued strong leadership in space.

I thank my friend Senator PETERS for his leadership on this legislation that we have just passed through the Senate. It is legislation that ensures that those artifacts, those footprints, made by those historic pioneers for humanity will not be disturbed, will not be violated, will not be destroyed but, rather, that they will be preserved for future generations so that decades and centuries from now those shrines to the incredible imagination and the unstoppable potential of the human spirit will be preserved for all of history.

This is a time of partisan division on many, many issues. Yet I am encouraged when it comes to space and America's leadership in space that we continually see the bipartisan cooperation of Democrats and Republicans working hand in hand.

I also commend NASA, in particular, for announcing the Artemis Project. Artemis, as you know, is the twin sister to Apollo in Greek mythology, and Artemis will be the next journey to the Moon that the United States will be undertaking.

I am particularly grateful that the Administrator of NASA has committed that when we, once again, land on the surface of the Moon in the coming years, among those astronauts to land on the Moon will be the first woman ever to set foot on the surface of the Moon. As the father of two young daughters, after 50 years, I say it is about time that we land a woman on the Moon. I am particularly proud that it will be an American astronaut whose boots will return to the Moon and that we will continue to make history together.

This is a moment to celebrate American leadership, but this is a moment, even more fundamentally, to celebrate what mankind can do—the frontier spirit of discovery and exploration. It is a spirit that should unite us all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote scheduled for 1:45 p.m. start at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Tapia nomination?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hassan	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rosen
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cardin	Inhofe	Rubio
Carper	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Coons	King	Shaheen
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Leahy	Sinema
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Duckworth	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young

#### NAYS—26

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Brown	Klobuchar	Tester
Cantwell	Markley	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Isakson	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warren
Harris	Sanders	

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to move to proceed to nominations reported out of the Armed Services Committee today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 374.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense.

James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Kevin Cramer, Ben Sasse, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Mitch McConnell.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Kevin Cramer, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Mitch McConnell.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 45.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Wendy Williams Berger, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 Wendy Williams Berger, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, Bill Cassidy, David Perdue, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Kevin Cramer, Pat Roberts.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 53.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian C. Buescher, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

##### 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 Brian C. Buescher, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Chuck Grassley, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton, David Perdue, Ron Johnson, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Martha McSally, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Thom Tillis.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1327

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the men and women who responded to the horrific events of September 11, 2001, are among the great heroes of American history. Whether fighting the deadly flames, rescuing people who were injured or dying, or removing the destructive debris from the 9/11 attack sites, the 9/11 volunteers and rescue workers displayed the courage and the sacrificial service that has earned them universal respect and admiration.

Tragically, their heroism came at a cost. Their heroism, at exactly these same dangerous sites we are describing, earned them, in addition to great respect, also health challenges in the years since.

In 2001, in response to those challenges, Congress established the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to compensate both the survivors of the attacks and also the residents who lived near the site. It was authorized for 2 years, and it paid out about \$7 billion in benefits and then closed.

In 2011, Congress revived and expanded the program to cover a larger universe of victims and responders, and

it authorized that fund to spend \$2.7 billion over 5 years.

In 2015, citing a growing need, Congress reauthorized the fund for another 5 years and an additional \$4.6 billion. Of that \$7.4 billion authorized since 2011, the fund has now paid out \$5.2 billion.

With money getting tight, in February of this year, the fund began temporarily reducing the claimants' benefits until Congress reauthorized and replenished it until such time as we can make those beneficiaries whole.

I support that effort. I support it wholeheartedly. The bill before us today authorizes the program not for 2 years, as it was in 2001, or for 5 years, as we did in 2011 and 2015, no, it authorizes the program for an additional 72 years and does not specify a dollar amount.

In Washington, this is a recipe for trouble. As we all know, finite authorizations are how Congress ensures that taxpayer money actually gets to its intended beneficiaries and not simply lost in government bureaucracy somewhere. It is how we make sure this is about protecting those who are supposed to benefit rather than government bureaucrats themselves.

Since 2011, the 9/11 victims fund has always had finite authorizations, and, by all accounts, it has had an excellent record of avoiding waste and abuse. These two things are not coincidental. They go together, and 9/11 survivors and first responders deserve no less moving forward. They deserve no less than to make sure the program created in their honor for their benefit, in fact, benefits them. This is why I would like to offer a simple amendment to this bill that would authorize \$10.2 billion in additional funding for the 9/11 victims fund over the next 10 years. That is the amount the Congressional Budget Office has estimated is necessary for covering all valid claims between now and 2029.

My amendment would further authorize an additional \$10 billion beyond that time. My amendment would not block or delay the bill's consideration, let alone its passage.

This is something we could vote on in a matter of minutes, 15 minutes or so, and then move on to final passage. We could, in fact, accomplish this today before we adjourn for the weekend. This is, in fact, what I prefer. I think finishing our work on this bill to protect victims and first responders is worth 15, 20, 30 minutes of our time. That is what I prefer.

I have had conversations with my colleagues, including colleagues across the aisle. In order to accommodate requests from some of my colleagues, I have agreed, with their mutual assent, to negotiate a different arrangement—one that would make sure we get to final passage on this bill and that we consider my amendment and that of Senator PAUL's within the next few days.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on or before Wednesday, July 24, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 153, H.R. 1327; that the only amendments in order be Lee amendment No. 928 and Paul amendment No. 929 to be offered; that there be up to 2 hours of concurrent debate equally divided between the leaders or designees; that the Senate then vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes; that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote; and that each amendment be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold. I further ask that upon disposition of the amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on H.R. 1327, as amended, if amended, all with no intervening action or debate, notwithstanding rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

I am grateful that we now have this agreement on timing so that we can get to the floor next week and have an up-or-down vote on the 9/11 first responders bill and the healthcare they desperately need.

I just want to go to the merits of Senator LEE's amendment because I think there is a misunderstanding. I understand that there is a concern about 72 years and that my colleague believes it is a recipe for trouble, but the truth is, the timing is limited for this bill because these men and women aren't going to survive. So many of them are already sick and dying, and all they care about is just being able to provide for their families.

There is nothing about this bill that is trying to play politics with the lives of men. There is going to be no fraud. There is going to be no disuse. This is literally all that is necessary for families to survive during these horrible times when their loved ones are dying.

I will not support my colleague's amendment because it will cap the bill needlessly, and it will mean that if there are survivors who still need healthcare, they will have to come back and walk these halls again. The gravest concern I have is that we dare ask these brave men and women to do this all over again. To watch someone come to the Capitol with an oxygen tank, in a wheelchair, unable to breathe or talk properly because of their cancer and their illness, is something I cannot accept.

I am grateful that we now have a time agreement for Wednesday, and I am grateful that we now have a chance to get an up-or-down vote and to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will not object. First, I just want to thank both my colleagues from New York and Utah for working out this agreement with the leader and me.

What this does is it paves the way, finally, for what we have been waiting on for a very, very long time—an up-or-down vote on H.R. 1327. There will be two amendments offered. We will oppose them. I don't think they have much of a chance of winning, but there is a right to offer them.

I want to thank my colleague from Utah for moving forward here, as well as, of course, my colleague from New York for the great work. Right now, for the first time, we can not only see the light at the end of the tunnel, we are getting very close to getting out of the tunnel. I expect that by Wednesday, we will be out of that tunnel, the bill will head to the President's desk, having already passed the House, he will sign it, and our first responders can go do the job they have been intending to do all along, which is to take care of themselves, take care of their loved ones, and take care of their brothers and sisters who have these injuries or who will get these injuries.

It has been a long, long and hard, hard struggle for over a decade, but now, finally—finally—it looks quite certain that this bill will pass the Senate, go to the President's desk, and at long last become law, and those first responders who made this happen more than anybody else will not—will not—have to come back again.

I do not object to the offer by my colleague from Utah.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I am grateful to the Democratic leader and to both Senators from New York for working with me on this and for getting this, along with my amendment and Senator PAUL's amendment, set up for a vote.

To be very clear—I want there to be no ambiguity—I would be willing to vote on this right now. There is no reason we should have to delay that. I am taking into account scheduling requests that were made by other Members of this body. As far as I am concerned and, as far as I am aware, as far as Senator PAUL is concerned, we would be happy to vote on these immediately. There is no additional reason for delay.

This is how the Senate is supposed to work. Each Member is supposed to have the opportunity to bring forward amendments to offer up improvements to legislation, to make sure that they happen and that they happen right.

I respectfully but strongly disagree with my colleagues on the merits of

some of the issues we have been discussing. We will debate those more in the coming days.

I would reiterate that it is not unreasonable to suggest that a program that takes the unprecedented step of authorizing funding for something until 2092—that, coupled with language authorizing the expenditure of such sums as may be necessary, creates problems. It is one of the reasons we opt to vote on this amendment and one of the reasons I believe in this amendment.

In any event, this is the kind of thing that ought not to be difficult. When any Member of any political background sees a potential weakness or defect in a piece of legislation, the rules of our body are such that we are supposed to be able to offer that up and cast an amendment. In this circumstance, I am pleased that it worked out the way it did, and we will be able to get votes on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

## THE ECONOMY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, just another day on Wall Street and just another news story. The New York Times' headline today was "Big Banks Are Earning Billions of Dollars. Trump's Tax Cuts Are A Big Reason."

So Congress can continue to do tax cuts for Wall Street. Congress can continue to weaken rules on Wall Street. Congress has forgotten. They have this collective amnesia about what happened 10 years ago when this country's economy almost imploded because of Wall Street greed. So now Congress—because of the tax cut and because of continued relaxation of Wall Street financial stability safety rules, Wall Street is doing really well again.

However, Congress can't pass an overtime bill—I mean, sorry. Congress can't pass a minimum wage bill. The last minimum wage increase in this Congress was signed by President Bush in 2007. President Obama never did it, and President Trump continues to oppose a minimum wage increase.

President Trump has rolled back an overtime rule, which in the State of Indiana—the Presiding Officer's State—almost 100,000 workers were going to get a raise because of the overtime rule we passed a couple years ago. So people, if they work more than 40 hours, they ought to get paid for more than 40 hours—President Trump rolled that back—and 130,000 workers in my State alone would have gotten a big bump in their wages because they were working 45, 50, or 60 hours a week.

This Congress will not pass an infrastructure bill. Look at the conditions of the roads in Cleveland, Toledo, Mansfield, Findlay, Akron, Youngstown, Gallipolis, Chillicothe, and Portsmouth, in my State, and all kinds of communities in Indiana, which the Presiding Officer represents. Congress can always find the time and can always find the money to help the richest 1 percent and help the big banks, but we can't turn around and do what

we ought to do on the minimum wage, what we ought to do on the overtime rule, and what we ought to do to expand the earned income tax credit. I do appreciate the Presiding Officer's interest, especially in the earned income tax credit—what he has tried to do there. We just simply can't find the time to do that.

We always help the people who have much in this society, and we just never get around, in this Congress, to helping the people who need a break.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Texas.

TEXAS VETERANS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am proud of the fact that 1 out of every 10 persons who wears the uniform of the U.S. military calls Texas home. It is no surprise that with more than a dozen military installations in the State, many servicemembers choose to live in Texas when they return to civilian life. We have the second highest veteran population of all of the States, with an estimated 1.6 million veterans living in Texas.

As you might suppose, in having the honor of representing these 1.6 million veterans, I talk to them quite a bit and hear from them often. I hear about the challenges they face when they transition back to civilian life. Whether the challenges are the big ones or the little ones, whether the challenges are of navigating complicated trails of paperwork, getting the timely healthcare they need, or finding employment when they return to civilian life, I am eager to help them identify solutions.

Over the last few years, we have made some major progress. In the last Congress, for example, we passed the historic VA MISSION Act, which modernized the veterans' appeals process and the electronic health records system. The bill reformed GI benefits, improved accountability within the VA Administration, and provided the largest funding increase in history for veterans' care and services.

We have also passed other bills to help veterans transition from military service. For example, our Jobs for Our Heroes Act made it easy for veterans to get commercial driver's licenses. Believe it or not, it is hard for the private sector to find the truckdrivers it needs. After somebody has driven a large vehicle in the military as part of his daily duties, you can imagine that his transitioning to a commercial driver's license would be a relatively simple thing. Given the paperwork and the bureaucracy and the challenges of one's applying for a commercial driver's license, we were able to pass legislation to facilitate that transition.

We also passed the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act, which ensures that veterans get hired by local law enforcement agencies. If you think about that, it is a skill set that many learn in the military, whether they served in the military police or otherwise. If you talk to one of your local

police departments, one of the things the department is short on is the number of people who work for local law enforcement. That is also true for Federal law enforcement agencies, particularly for the Border Patrol. Many military servicemembers come out of the military with the very skills that are needed most by the police agencies that work to keep our communities safe.

To improve the educational opportunities that are available to these men and women, in the last Congress, we passed a bipartisan bill called the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the Forever GI Bill. President Trump signed it into law in August of 2017. With a stroke of a pen, he enhanced and expanded education benefits for veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

The Forever GI Bill made much needed updates for veterans who face school closures while they are enrolled. It expanded work study activities. It also created a scholarship program for students who pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math, the so-called STEM fields.

It established the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, which provides student veterans with an additional 9 months of GI bill eligibility to ensure they have the time and the financial assistance they need in order to complete their studies in some of our most needed fields. We later learned that there is an issue, though, that prevents many students from taking full advantage of that program. The current law mandates that students must be enrolled in a STEM program for more than 128 credit hours, but the Department of Veterans Affairs found that there are only three States in which the average STEM degree exceeds that minimum. That places many students in an unfair position of either picking from a limited list of schools or forgoing the scholarship money, which can provide up to \$30,000 in financial assistance. That is a Hobson's choice for our veterans, and it is time for Congress to fix that error.

To ensure that all veterans who want to take advantage of the Nourse scholarship are able to, on a bipartisan basis with several of my colleagues, I recently introduced legislation called the Veteran STEM Scholarship Improvement Act, which would lower the 128 credit hour requirement to the more common 120 credit hour requirement. Now, changing a number from an eight to a zero may not seem like a big deal, but for the veterans who have been frustrated by this impediment that prevents them from using the benefits they were promised, it can be life-changing. This would ensure that Texas's veterans who are interested in pursuing STEM programs that are offered in their communities are able to do so while they receive their GI benefits.

I just want to say a word about the GI bill because it is personal to me and

my family. My dad, who was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Molesworth Air Force base in England, flew a total of 26 bombing missions over the English Channel into the industrial heartland of Germany to try to end that terrible, terrible war. Unfortunately, he was shot down and was captured as a prisoner of war on his 26th mission, and he served the last 4 months of World War II as a prisoner of war. Thankfully, he survived that experience.

To my point here, when he came back to Corpus Christi, TX, he took advantage of the GI bill so he could continue his education. He received a 2-year associate of arts degree from, as it was called then, the Del Mar Community College. He also met my mother at about that time, and they married. Lo and behold, he ended up deciding, I think I want to go to dental school. So, after he had been shot out of the sky by German anti-aircraft guns, maybe a nice, placid dentist's life sounded pretty good, and that is what he chose.

It was thanks to the GI bill that the whole generation of that so-called "greatest generation" was able to come back from the war and get the tools and the education they needed in order to contribute to our country and help make our economy and our country as strong as we inherited it and welcome it today.

Even for this next greatest generation of veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan and for those who still serve today, it is important for us to keep this opportunity of the modern GI bill benefits when they take off the uniform as Active-Duty servicemembers and transition to civilian life.

I thank my colleagues—particularly Senators RUBIO, CRUZ, MANCHIN, and SINEMA—for supporting the STEM bill I described a little earlier. The House passed the legislation this last month, and I hope the Senate will do the same soon so we can get this bill to the President's desk for his signature.

In addition to this legislation, I am eager to vote on the final passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. Last month, the Senate passed our version of the bill with broad, bipartisan support. As a matter of fact, only eight Senators voted against it. It is hard to find many things that are that bipartisan in the Senate or in Washington, DC, today.

In addition to investing in military modernization and in providing the largest pay raise in a decade for our troops, this legislation also included other provisions to support our veterans.

A bill I introduced with Senator BALDWIN, of Wisconsin, called the HAVEN Act, was included as a provision of the NDAA. This bill would shield VA and Department of Defense disability benefits in bankruptcy proceedings in the same way Social Security disability is exempted. Veterans shouldn't be penalized for receiving

disability compensation that they are rightly due.

I hope this provision will be included in the final version, which will follow the conference committee on the national defense authorization bill. The House passed its version of the NDAA last week, and I hope the conference committee will quickly iron out the differences between the two bills so we can approve this legislation.

Like all of my colleagues, I am grateful for the dedicated service and sacrifice of millions of men and women across our country who defend our freedoms. I want to make sure, as we all do, that their transitioning to civilian life after their military service is as smooth as possible.

By improving access to healthcare, employment, and education, the Senate is working hard to support America's veterans, and we are demonstrating in a country that has an all-volunteer military that we will keep our commitments to our military members while they wear the uniform and keep our commitments to our veterans when they transition to civilian life. This is an important part of our continuing to recruit and retain the best and brightest to serve in the U.S. military.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Pennsylvania.

**Mr. CASEY.** Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BORDER SECURITY

**Mr. CASEY.** Mr. President, I start this afternoon with a topic we are all talking about—the horror that we saw and heard last night at a rally when there was a chant over and over again—we have seen the footage of it—of “send her back.”

I condemn this—as I did earlier today—in the strongest possible terms, and I want to reiterate my condemnation of that chant. I know that condemnation is widely shared on both sides of the aisle. I hope folks in both Chambers and both parties will condemn and reiterate the condemnation of that kind of chant but also what is underneath it. It is racist, for sure, and it is not who we are. That is not America.

I am glad the President said that if it happens again, he will try to stop it. I wish he had done that in real time last night, but let's see what happens at the next rally.

There is no excuse for any public official to do anything other than condemn that kind of language. Representative OMAR is a Representative in the Congress of the United States who came here as a child, and for anyone to utter those kinds of words against her or anyone else, of course, should be condemned.

Fortunately, I think most Americans agree with me, and we have to be very clear when we have that kind of senti-

ment expressed, especially when it is repeated across the country, as we saw last night.

I want to talk about our asylum system, a legal asylum system that was established in the wake of the horrors of World War II. We as a Nation—the United States of America—vowed after that conflict to do better, to be better, to serve as a refuge for those fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries.

Today, families from Central America are arriving at our southern border, hoping to avail themselves of this system because of the violence in their home countries. The three we have heard so much about—Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador—rank in the top 10 countries in the world for homicide—homicide. According to a report issued by Doctors Without Borders in 2017, Northern Triangle countries, these three countries, are experiencing—and this is a direct quote from the Doctors Without Borders report, 2017—“violent displacement, persecution, sexual violence, and forced repatriation akin to the conditions found in the deadliest armed conflicts in the world today.” So said Doctors Without Borders.

In the face of violence and other such circumstances, the choice to move in search of opportunity and safety is one that the vast majority of families would make, even when that journey can further subject them to violence and danger.

Late last month, the Nation was horrified—indeed, the world was horrified—by a photograph of a 2-year-old girl and her father, her small arm clinging to her father as they lay facedown in a river, dead.

That is not the picture I am showing here. We all know that picture. I don't need to show it again. So many Americans, so many people around the world remember that picture.

But the picture I put up is a picture of that little girl and her father as they lived, a picture of the two of them that appeared in the Washington Post in an article dated Thursday, June 27, 2019, on page 3.

Here is the article that the picture was taken from. The headline reads, “Pair who died at border were desperate for a better life”—desperate for a better life.

That is the story of so many of these families—desperate for a better life, free from violence or the threat of violence, free from or at least distant from death threats, and free from poverty, grinding poverty, the likes of which so many of us have never had to experience. That is what they are desperate for when they say “desperate for a better life.”

Rather than simply focus on this father and his daughter and how they died and the picture of them facedown in a river, I wanted to make sure we saw their faces, to celebrate their lives but to remind us of our obligation, our enduring obligation, to make sure that

we at least—at least—take steps to reduce the likelihood that we will ever see again a horrific picture like the one of the two of them dead in a river, facedown.

Here is what part of the story is of this little girl and her father. The little girl's name was Valeria. Quoting from the Washington Post story:

Valeria was a cheery child. Not even 2 years old, she loved to dance, play with her stuffed animals and brush her family members' hair. Her father, Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez, was stalwart. Nearly always working, he sold his motorcycle and borrowed money to move his family from El Salvador to the United States. Martinez and his wife, Tania Vanessa Avalos, wanted to save up for a home there. They wanted safety, opportunity.

“They wanted a better future for their girl,” Maria Estela Avalos, Vanessa's mother, told The Washington Post.

They traveled more than 1,000 miles seeking it. Once in the United States, they planned to ask for asylum, for refuge from the violence that drives many Central American migrants from their home countries every day. But the farthest the family got was an international bridge. . . . On Sunday—

This would be the Sunday before June 27.

On Sunday, they were told that the bridge was closed and that they should return Monday. Aid workers told The Post the line to get across the bridge was hundreds long.

Then we know what happened next to this father and his daughter.

There was also another story in the New York Times the day before, June 26. The headline read “Girl was Safe but Tried to Follow Father Back.”

I will not go through all of it, but here is what they were facing in terms of their own economic circumstances. At the end of the New York Times story it reads as follows:

Mr. Martinez quit his job at Papa Johns, where he had earned about \$350 a month. By then, his wife had already left her job as a cashier at a Chinese restaurant to take care of their daughter.

The couple lived with Mr. Martinez's mother in the community of Altavista, a massive housing complex of tiny concrete houses east of San Salvador, according to [someone referred to earlier in the story].

Though Altavista is under the control of gangs, the couple was not fleeing from violence, [Ms. Ramirez] told him. Rather, the grind of surviving as a family on \$10 a day had become unmanageable.

So we have a lot of families fleeing for reasons based on violence and death threats and that horror, and then we also have families fleeing because they, in this case, had \$10 a day to live on.

So these families risk danger as they cross through—what could only be said by way of understatement—treacherous terrain. They risk that danger because the graver risk is not to make that journey.

The administration has not sought, in my judgment, to address the root causes of migration, such as what we just talked about: violence, poverty, and corruption. Rather, the administration has repeatedly attempted to walk back our Nation's solemn vow



and close the door on refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the past couple of weeks, reports have surfaced of children held in squalid conditions without adequate medical attention, sanitation, or even food and water.

A law professor who spoke with children at a Texas CBP facility was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying, "It's the worst conditions I have ever witnessed in several years of doing these inspections."

That is a law professor, not a casual observer but someone who has experience and training, recognizing what is happening in these facilities.

In May, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General issued a report stating that the El Paso Del Norte Processing Center, a facility with a maximum of 125 detainees, was holding 900—capacity 125, holding 900 detainees.

Some migrants were held in standing-room-only conditions for days and weeks with limited access to showers and clean clothing. These conditions were dangerous and posed an immediate risk to both migrants and personnel.

The administration has sought to use inhumane policies like separating families, just one example, as a deterrent—as a deterrent.

They recently canceled English classes, recreational programs, and legal aid for unaccompanied minors at shelters across the country, and an attorney for the Department of Justice argued that the government should not be required to give detained migrant children toothbrushes, soap, towels, or showers.

Does that make any sense at all? Is that consistent with our values?

The administration is seeking to relax standards for holding children, when, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics—also not casual observers but a set of experts on what a child needs to survive and thrive—Department of Homeland Security facilities already do not meet the basic standards for the care of children in residential settings.

Earlier this week, the administration issued an interim final rule that essentially bars Central American migrants from claiming asylum by making them ineligible for asylum, including unaccompanied children who enter the United States at the southern border after passing through another country. This is just the latest in many attempts to restrict our asylum system and bar those fleeing violence, persecution—and for other reasons—from exercising their legal right, a legal right that is not just grounded in United States law but international law, the right to petition the U.S. Government for protection consistent with what we did after World War II because of the horrors we saw in World War II. This wasn't just some concept that was dreamed up. It was meant to deal with the horrors that World War II brought, to say to the world that we are going

to make sure that if someone is fleeing violence and persecution, they will at least have a shot to make their case, to have due process to make their case. Most don't make the case; we know that. Most end up not being successful. But we should let them make the case because we are, on our best days, a nation of laws. We are also, of course, a nation of immigrants, and both of these principles are intertwined and undergird our values.

President Kennedy said it pretty well:

Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible. With such a policy, we can turn to the world and to our own past with clean hands and a clear conscience.

It is entirely possible to create an immigration system that reflects not just President Kennedy's vision but our values as Americans—a system that respects the rule of law, that treats all individuals with human dignity, and reflects our values as a Nation.

When we think of not just what our immigration system must be about but what our asylum system must be about, let us think of those families who put their lives at risk because of what they are fleeing, who simply want to make their case.

Let's also remember two people whose faces we didn't see much of except in this one picture—a father and a daughter, little Valeria and her father, Oscar Martinez Ramirez—and remember what they were trying to do. I realize some will debate this: What happens when someone presents themselves at our border based upon poverty? I understand that will be the argument against it, but we are a big enough country and a great enough country to be able to develop a system to make sure that child and that father have a shot to come here.

One of the problems we are having now at the border is that when you tell the world that you want to push people away, by way of rhetoric or by way of extreme policies at the border—inhumane policies, which might be an understatement—and by telling the world, or at least sending the message to the world, that you want to greatly restrict immigration, you are going to have people choosing a different system to try to make their case. We need to fix both. We have a broken immigration system which this body dealt with in 2013—68 votes in the Senate—to fix the system and to deal with all the tough issues. We can't get 68 votes around here to adjourn for lunch or to move on to the next part of the day sometimes. That is only a slight exaggeration—but 68 votes.

What happened? Because there are extreme voices in this town that told the House of Representatives, "Don't even vote on it; just end it right here," the best attempt in maybe decades to secure the border, to deal with citizenship, to deal with the guest worker program, to deal with all the difficult issues with immigration, and with 68

votes here, died in the House. It didn't even get a vote in the House, and this Chamber and the House have done basically nothing since then, at least the way I see it—nothing in terms of dealing with this system, trying to fix this broken system so you have rules and order and certainty, but also based upon and founded upon our values.

Some people say: You can't do it. It is just too hard. Congress isn't equipped for that.

We are the greatest country in the world for a lot of reasons. One of them is because of our values. Another reason is when we are at our best, we tackle tough problems. Fixing this broken immigration system is a tough problem. Many Presidents and many Congresses have wrestled with it, but we got as close to getting to a fix as anytime in recent American history when that bill passed. The faster we get back to something that comprehensive, that bipartisan, and that grounded in fact and law, the better off we will be.

While we are doing that on immigration, we should have a conversation about asylum—how to do it right and how to make sure that system is working so well that it will be an example to the world.

We have a long way to go. We have work to do, but I think these difficult issues are indeed a great mission—a difficult mission, but I think they are a mission worthy of a great country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Tuesday, July 23, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1327, as under the previous order; I further ask that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to executive session and, if cloture has been invoked on the Esper nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. Finally, that following the cloture vote on the Dickson nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and consideration of H.R. 1327 with all debate time considered expired at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.



## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session 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.

## HONORING TROY CHISUM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on August 10, Fulton County Sheriff Deputy Troy Chisum should be turning 40 years old. He should be spending the day watching his daughters play softball, or he should be playing football with his friends and excitedly discussing the upcoming Minnesota Vikings football season.

But, sadly, he won't be doing these things. Deputy Chisum was killed in the line of duty on June 25. I want to honor him today.

Deputy Chisum was answering a call about a domestic disturbance in Avon, IL. He was 4 minutes closer than any other deputy. When he arrived at the scene, he saw the suspect on the porch. As he moved back for safety, he was shot in the back and killed. The suspect barricaded himself in the house for the next 19 hours before the standoff ended.

Deputy Chisum was the fifth law enforcement officer in America in an 8-day period to be shot and killed while on duty. Another police officer has been shot and killed since then. Their deaths are a heartbreaking reminder of the dangers officers face every day.

Troy Chisum loved his community. He always answered the call to help. He worked as a paramedic with the Fulton County EMA and as a firefighter with Northern Tazewell County. He also was a member of the West Central Illinois Special Response Team and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Weapon of Mass Destruction/Special Response Team, Region Six. He had formerly worked for Lewistown Police Department. He was a consummate public servant.

His family was always his No. 1 priority. He loved any activity with his wife Amanda and his time with his three daughters. He helped inspire his daughter Kyleigh to pursue a medical career. He made his girls so proud.

Deputy Chisum's wife Amanda, their three daughters Kyleigh, Abigail, and Gracie, his father, Phil Chisum, his mother and stepfather, Debra and Mike Wheeler and too many relatives, colleagues and friends to name; they were all proud of Troy.

Deputy Chisum was one of the good ones. His colleagues knew him as the first one in every morning and the last one out every night. His legacy and sacrifice will be remembered.

## VERGENNES, VERMONT'S, ROLE IN THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week America celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of a monumental achievement for our country and all of humankind, the *Apollo 11* mission that landed the first human beings on the Moon.

Like families across America and across the world, our family gathered in front of the television in our living room that Sunday night of July 20, 1969, to watch this history unfold. I was State's attorney then, and we lived in a duplex in Burlington.

Our 5-year-old son Kevin asked if he could stay up late to watch, and of course, Marcelle and I agreed. He stretched out on the floor in his PJs. He had nodded off by the time the images from the Moon started to come across, and we roused our little fellow.

We knew this was a night we would always remember.

The next day, I went to court for an arraignment. Then I met with police officers about several matters, and we all had a hard time concentrating as we excitedly discussed what we had seen the night before.

As Neil Armstrong so famously said, his one small step was a giant leap for all of humanity.

As he and other astronauts often noted, that leap was made possible not just by his step, but by the small steps of thousands of men and women across America who participated in the space program, including some from the town of Vergennes, VT.

Today, 50 years ago, the *Apollo 11* mission was hurtling toward the moon, but getting to the Moon is not a matter of just pointing the nose of a craft and igniting the powerful engines. First, the command module had to dock with the lunar expeditionary module, then leave Earth's orbit, then navigate to get into lunar orbit, and then return. Throughout the process, Michael Collins needed to use the craft's engines, known as a burn, to adjust the heading.

But with no option to refuel, these burns had to be precise and effective, and any deviation from the planned fuel usage had to be worked into future plans. Otherwise, there would be no return for America's heroes. This is where Vergennes came in.

Vermont has a long tradition of building precision tools and machinery, and NASA turned to Simmonds Precision of Vergennes, VT, to ensure that the *Apollo 11* crew and Mission Control knew exactly how much fuel they had. The fuel probes and valves had to be as nearly perfect as possible, and they had to perform perfectly in varying levels of microgravity. It was an immense technological challenge, which the engineers and workers in Vergennes met.

Fifty years later, the company is still there. Now operating under the name Collins Aerospace, they still make fuel probes, along with other aerospace technology that seems to be able to do the impossible. When you

enter the factory, along their wall of history, the Apollo Program commands a special place of pride. It is a reminder of how the small steps taken by Americans everywhere, when working together, can accomplish tremendous leaps.

I ask unanimous consent that a recent article about one of the engineers from Vergennes, published by the Burlington Free Press, be printed into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 17, 2019]

## VERMONT COMPANY PLAYED KEY ROLE IN APOLLO MOON MISSION

(By Joel Banner Baird, Free Press Staff Writer)

A FORMER ENGINEER WITH VERGENNES-BASED SIMMONDS PRECISION DESCRIBES THE COMPANY'S ROLE IN THE APOLLO SPACE PROGRAM

Something clicked when Dominique St. Pierre heard President John F. Kennedy declare, in 1962, that the U.S. would land men on the moon by the end of the decade.

"It was gutsy," St. Pierre, now 74, remembers.

JFK's challenge prompted St. Pierre, then an 18-year-old in St. Albans, to hone his engineering skills at Vermont Technical College, sign on with Simmonds Precision in Vergennes in 1965 and help design and build a fuel system for the Apollo moon mission.

Three years later, the first-ever astronauts to orbit the moon were measuring their craft's precious propellant with Vermont-made gauges, valves and meters.

His collaboration with more than 200 employees at Simmonds yielded a tool that performed flawlessly throughout the Apollo program, St. Pierre said.

A thrilling, disruptive American decade Simmonds, subsequently bought by Goodrich and then United Technologies, went on to design and build fuel sensors for Boeing and Airbus, among other customers. St. Pierre stayed with the company until he retired in 2019.

But the fast-paced years leading up to the successful moon landing on July 20, 1969—and Apollo 11 crew's safe return—remain vivid for St. Pierre.

The space program offered a welcome, uplifting message for Americans shocked by the Chicago riots of 1968, as well as the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in that year, St. Pierre said.

"We had a schedule to meet"

Engineers at NASA kept the Simmonds crew very busy and focused, he added: "We worked long, long days. Come hell or high water, we had a schedule to meet."

St. Pierre remembers the dust-free workplace in Vergennes, bustling with technicians in white smocks and surgical caps.

But, despite America's global, cold-war rivalry with the Soviet Union that extended into those countries' space programs, there was little secrecy at Simmonds—beyond the safekeeping of papers that documented test results, St. Pierre said.

Excitement built when NASA flew him to Cape Kennedy (now Cape Canaveral), where he joined hundreds of other engineers in fitting together thousands of interconnected pieces of a never-before assembled puzzle.

"To this day, 50 years later," St. Pierre said, "it's still viewed as the greatest technological achievement of mankind."

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Clifton L. Corker to be a judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.

Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Lynda Blanchard to be United States Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed her nomination.

Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Donald R. Tapia to be United States Ambassador to Jamaica. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I had expected to be able to vote on the confirmations of Mr. Clifton Corker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Ms. Lynda Blanchard to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, and Mr. Donald R. Tapia to be Ambassador to Jamaica. Instead, I am in Nevada for a funeral.

On the question of the confirmation of Mr. Clifton Corker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, I would have voted no.

On the question of the confirmation of Ms. Lynda Blanchard to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, I would have voted no.

On the question of the confirmation of Mr. Donald R. Tapia to be Ambassador to Jamaica, I would have voted yes.

Thank you.●

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Arkansas Broadcasters Association, ABA, on its 70th anniversary and celebrate the organization's decades of service to radio and television broadcasters in my State.

Established in 1949, the Arkansas Broadcasters formed to help broadcast organizations by educating its members about opportunities available through free, over-the-air broadcast operations and provide technical support, regulatory expertise, and advocacy coordination. The trade association's support and the services associated with it have no doubt been a tremendous asset to broadcasters across the State. Today, the ABA highlights its mission to help members in "Broad-

casting Naturally," which aptly distills the organization's mantra in simple, clever terms.

Arkansas' radio and television broadcast outlets provide vital information and quality programming to communities across our State. They educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with Arkansans in a variety of ways. When we turn on our televisions or radios and perhaps just as much these days by opening our smartphones and tablets or powering on our computers, we have come to expect the content we are looking for will be readily available and accessible.

We are able to find what we are looking for on TV or radio or their technology-enabled apps and online platforms because of the hard work that broadcasters do to ensure their product is meeting the demands and desires of consumers. I believe these broadcasters will be the first people to tell you that the Arkansas Broadcasters Association has played an integral role in their ability to provide that service, adapt to changing technology, and better understand the market they operate in.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside the ABA on legislative efforts that help the organization and its members continue to do the job they want to do as well as they can. I have been a supporter of legislation the broadcasters have advocated for, including the Local Radio Freedom Act, and I was especially honored when the group named me its Arkansan of the Year in 2017 for my work to support the association and its members.

Congratulations to the Arkansas Broadcasters Association and all of its members on reaching the tremendous milestone of seven decades working on behalf of their industry. I applaud them and am confident the ABA will enjoy many more years of success on behalf of the Natural State's television and radio broadcasters.●

## TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM HALEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing Miriam Haley of Silver Bow County for her contribution to the Butte veteran community.

Mrs. Haley, a quilter for over two decades, recently chaired a patriotic quilt show during Butte's Miners' Union Day celebration. The goal of this show was to create quilts for veterans moving into the newly built Southwest Montana Regional Veterans Home. Mrs. Haley ensured these quilts were designed to serve the Butte veterans in their day-to-day needs, whether they be resting or sitting with visitors. Originally, Mrs. Haley had hoped to collect 65 quilts for the veterans, but the show collected double that number. The 130 quilts spread out in proud display for the show acted as a tangible expression of Montana's ability to go above and beyond for its veteran community.

I wish to congratulate Mrs. Haley on her quilt show's success. Her actions

reflect the deep devotion to patriotism ingrained in all Montanans.●

## TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DOUGLAS B. GUTTORMSEN

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize COL Douglas B. Guttormsen on the occasion of his retirement from the Kansas City District Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has diligently served in this role for 3 years.

After earning degrees from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the University of Missouri at Rolla, the National Defense University, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Colonel Guttormsen went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

As commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Guttormsen has overseen many military and civil works projects throughout the district. From directing construction projects at the region's military installations to ensuring the levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Guttormsen has demonstrated able and consistent leadership.

Although his resume boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Guttormsen's work leading the emergency operations center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

This spring, when facing extensive rainfall and severe flooding, he and the entire Kansas City District staff worked around the clock to respond to levee breaches and assist affected communities. Colonel Guttormsen also participated in the Missouri River Flood Forum that Congressman STEVE WATKINS and I hosted in May, where we saw the extensive flooding at the 4-State Lookout Point in Kansas and then spoke alongside the Department of Agriculture and answered questions from community members.

Colonel Guttormsen is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District commander. I trust my fellow members will join me in congratulating him and wishing him well in the days to come.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolutions, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the

Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. Res. 37. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 736. An act to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

H.R. 748. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

H.R. 1250. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as the "Lucas Lowe Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1847. An act to require congressional notification for certain changes in status of inspectors general, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

H.R. 3305. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building".

H.R. 3494. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

At 1:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 582. An act to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, 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. 1250. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as the "Lucas Lowe Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1847. An act to require congressional notification for certain changes in status of inspectors general, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3305. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3494. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 736. An act to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 582. An act to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 748. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

#### 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-2023. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs" (RIN0575-AD10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2024. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division,

Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining Electric Program Procedures" (RIN0572-AC40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2025. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2018 Purchases From Foreign Entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2026. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, United States Navy, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2027. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2028. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds" (RIN3235-AM43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Regulation Number 4, New Wood Stoves and the Use of Certain Woodburning Appliances During High Pollution Days" (FRL No. 9995-93-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Country: Air Quality Planning and Management; Federal Implementation Plan for the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington; Redesignation to a PSD Class I Area" (FRL No. 9996-67-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Massachusetts: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 9996-56-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oregon: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 9996-69-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2033. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (International Affairs), Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2034. A communication from the Director of the Office of Textiles and Apparel, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imports of Certain Worsted Wool Fabric: Implementation of Tariff Rate Quota Established Under Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000: Removal of Regulations" (RIN0625-AB13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2035. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Revision of Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities: Arbitration Agreements" (RIN0938-AT18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2036. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Global Health Innovations for Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2037. A communication from the Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to seven (7) vacancies in the agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2038. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2019-0048 - 2019-0060); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2039. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2040. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2041. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act Public Law 107-174: Annual Report to Congress Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2042. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2043. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Annual Report to Congress on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Lu National Blue Alert Act of 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2044. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary/Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2045. A communication from the Assistant Director of the Office of Policy, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Immigration Appeals: Affirmance Without Opinion, Referral for Panel Review, and Publication of Decisions as Precedents" (RIN1125-AA58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2046. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asylum Eligibility and Procedural Modifications" (RIN1125-AA91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2047. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; 2019 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specifications" (RIN0648-XE900) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2048. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Golden Tilefish Fishery; 2019 Specifications" (RIN0648-XG417) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2049. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Prohibit Directed Fishing for American Fisheries Act Program and Crab Rationalization Program Groundfish Sideboard Limits in the BSAI and GOA" (RIN0648-BH88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2050. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Permit Renewal Applications" (RIN0648-BH43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2051. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for Fish Aggregating Devices in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-BI37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2052. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area" (RIN0648-BH06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2053. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area" (RIN0648-BH29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 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-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to enact the Military Hunger Prevention Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families to buy healthy, nutritious food at a network of participating stores and farmer's markets, and is the country's most important anti-hunger program; and

Whereas, The federal government pays for the cost of SNAP benefits and the program's eligibility rules are primarily set at the federal level, while the costs of administering the program are shared between the federal government and the states; and

Whereas, In a typical month in 2017, the SNAP program helped more than 40 million low-income Americans afford a nutritionally adequate diet; and

Whereas, Most recipients of SNAP who are able to work are working while receiving benefits, which demonstrates the need of many working families, including those with a member in the armed forces, for assistance, particularly during economic downturns; and

Whereas, In 2015, more than \$80 million in SNAP benefits were used to buy food at military commissaries; and many military installations have food pantries or food banks that provide food to military families who are in need; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, two percent of active duty military families, or approximately 23,000 families, received SNAP benefits from 2009 to 2012, and six percent of respondents of the Blue Star Family

Lifestyle Survey reported using emergency food relief in 2017; and

Whereas, Military families that do not reside on a military base or installation receive a Basic Housing Allowance (BAH), which is meant to offset the cost of civilian housing for those who do not reside in government-provided housing, and the rate of the BAH depends on location, pay grade, and number of dependents of the service member; and

Whereas, Although the BAH is intended to offset the cost of civilian housing for servicemen and women who do not live on a military base, the amount of the BAH is currently considered as income for purposes of determining eligibility for SNAP, and certain other benefits, pursuant to federal law; and

Whereas, The "Military Hunger Prevention Act," <sup>1</sup> [currently] *previously*<sup>1</sup> pending in Congress as H.R. 1078 and S. 2488, would amend federal law to exclude the BAH when determining eligibility for certain federal benefits, including SNAP; and

Whereas, Among the many economic challenges faced by members of the military are: relatively low pay compared to non-military occupations; infrequent and insufficient pay raises; frequent transfers or deployments, particularly when the transfer is to a region of the country with a comparatively high cost of living; and the difficulty of spouses to find well-paying, long-term employment due to those transfers and deployments; and

Whereas, In order that members of the armed services and their families, who make considerable personal sacrifices to protect and serve the United States, have sufficient and nutritious food on their tables, it is fitting and proper that the law be amended to exclude the BHA from income for purposes of determining eligibility for SNAP and other federal programs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Legislature and Governor of New Jersey respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to <sup>1</sup>introduce and <sup>1</sup>enact the "Military Hunger Prevention Act," <sup>1</sup> [currently pending in both houses of Congress.] <sup>1</sup> so that those members of the armed forces who make considerable sacrifices in order to serve our country, yet face hunger or require assistance, are able to benefit from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other benefits, notwithstanding their receipt of a Basic Housing Allowance.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

<sup>1</sup>3. *This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.*<sup>1</sup>

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging the United States Congress to enact legislation making United States policy not to start a nuclear war and to prohibit the funding of further development and production of additional nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 61

Whereas, The use of even a small number of nuclear weapons could have catastrophic human, environmental, health, and economic consequences globally; and

Whereas, Approximately 14,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world and pose an intolerable risk to humanity; and

Whereas, The United States has over 6,000 nuclear weapons, which combined are more

than 100 times more powerful than all the weapons used during World War II; and

Whereas, The United States is currently planning to spend nearly \$2 trillion over the next 30 years rebuilding its entire nuclear weapons arsenal; this is a gross misuse of funds that could instead be devoted to improving security, health, and education; and

Whereas, The United States maintains nearly 1,000 nuclear weapons on high alert so they are ready for launch within minutes of a presidential decision to do so, making them vulnerable to accidents, unauthorized use, cyber attacks, and miscalculations, thereby increasing the risk of nuclear use; and

Whereas, The United States currently reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks by Russia, China, or North Korea, nations that could respond by using their own nuclear weapons, resulting in a nuclear war that could have devastating consequences; and

Whereas, The sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons should be to deter a nuclear attack on the United States, its forces, and its allies; there is no reason for the United States to ever use nuclear weapons first; and

Whereas, The U.S. President has sole authority to order a nuclear attack without any consultation or input; leaving the decision to one individual increases the chance of a nuclear weapon being used; and

Whereas, A policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons would severely constrain the ability of the President to order a nuclear attack, allowing attacks only in response to a nuclear attack; and

Whereas, Americans and all people on the planet should have the right to live a life free from the threat of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, The United States should immediately change its policies, as well as actively pursue verifiable agreements with other nuclear-armed nations to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and eliminate them from the planet; therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, that, as an important first step, we call on the President of the United States to make it the policy of the U.S. that it will not start a nuclear war and therefore will not use nuclear weapons first, and we call on the United States Congress to pass legislation supporting this policy; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we call on Congress to not fund the development and production of additional U.S. nuclear weapons that can produce a relatively small nuclear explosion, making them suitable for rogue nuclear war-fighting and potentially lowering the threshold to using nuclear weapons first; and be it further*

*Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.*

POM-120. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 343

Whereas, The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund was created in 2001 to compensate individuals for illnesses and deaths due to exposure to toxins at the September 11th attack sites; and

Whereas, the fund was reauthorized in 2011 and then again in 2015, allowing individuals to submit claims until December 18, 2020; and

Whereas, the World Trade Center Health Program was essentially established to diagnose and treat medical issues of September 11th responders and victims; and

Whereas, the \$7.3 billion fund has already paid out approximately \$5 billion to 21,000 claimants and still has approximately 19,000 additional claims; and

Whereas, insufficient money exists to pay current and projected claims at the same levels under current procedures, and claimants that are unpaid will see a drastic cut in payments; and

Whereas, more than 90,000 Americans, including approximately 1,500 residents of this Commonwealth, struggle with illnesses related to the September 11th attacks as of 2018; and

Whereas, the fund should be reauthorized and fully funded through 2090, which will make it last until the 2090 expiration date of the World Trade Center Health Program; Now, therefore be it

*Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to reauthorize and fully fund the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.*

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEE, from the Joint Economic Committee:

Special Report entitled "The 2019 Joint Economic Report" (Rept. No. 116-58).

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 727. A bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROUNDS for Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

\*Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense.

\*Army nomination of Gen. Mark A. Milley, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Mary F. O'Brien, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Ronald J. Place, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Robert T. Wooldridge II, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. David G. Bellon, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. ROUNDS for Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Mark C. Alderman and ending with Denean V. E. Zozo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2019.

Air Force nomination of Robert K. Rankin, Jr., to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Judy A. Rattan, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gaylan A. Gray and ending with Jordan H. Lindeke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 18, 2019.

Air Force nominations beginning with Hans Eric Anker and ending with Brian Douglas Zullo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 18, 2019.

Air Force nomination of John W. Poulter, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Thomas D. Ausherman, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Edward J. Brennan and ending with Kenneth H. Stremmel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lauren A. Baker and ending with Jesse W. Johnson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jonathan D. Barnes and ending with Jeremiah P. Sexton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Army nomination of Larry D. Crowder, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jason B. Bariatti and ending with Mark A. Patterson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 18, 2019.

Army nomination of Roger M. Lewis, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Thelma D. Cummings and ending with Kyungkun Lee, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 18, 2019.

Army nomination of Joshua S. Anderson, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Joseph P. Blakeney, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Patrick D. Clary, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Marie P. Corpuz, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Ernest M. Dorema, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Simone M. Edwards, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Luciano G. Mizerani, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Rochelle S. Pressley, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Howard G. Rice, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Virginia L. Egli, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Darren K. Purcell, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph R. Adams and ending with Liang Zhou, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Army nominations beginning with Ryan H. Allred and ending with Anna Yoo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Army nominations beginning with Keith J. Andrews and ending with Jeffrey T.

Whorton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Marine Corps nomination of Timothy K. Gallagher, Jr., to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Kyle A. Ugone, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Sean M. Williams, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Christopher D. McLin, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Christopher M. Johnson, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Benny P. Volkmann, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Eric A. Polonsky, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Vincent L. Ackerman and ending with James L. Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Ricardo M. Abakah and ending with Yu Zheng, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Alexander Aldana and ending with Robert J. Wishmeyer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy G. Boyle and ending with Delicia G. Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Aaron T. Allison and ending with Kristin B. Whitehouse, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Ryan B. Bareng and ending with Timothy A. Springer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Kevin L. Albert and ending with James H. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Arturo Alvarado, Jr. and ending with Elizabeth M. Zuloaga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2019.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Kea Whetzal Riggs, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Robert Anthony Molloy, of the Virgin Islands, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands for a term of ten years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2156. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2157. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand the use of global payments to hospitals in rural areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2158. A bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2159. A bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of North Dakota over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Devils Lake Indian Reservation"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2160. A bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain Federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEE):

S. 2161. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2162. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2163. A bill to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2164. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2165. A bill to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2166. A bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2167. A bill to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be



transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2168. A bill to establish a student loan forgiveness plan for certain borrowers who are employed at a qualified farm or ranch; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2169. A bill to amend section 3116 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the applicability of the appointment limitations for students appointed under the expedited hiring authority for post-secondary students; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2170. A bill to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to make reforms to flood mapping programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2171. A bill to amend the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 to require insurance agents who sell flood insurance policies under the National Flood Insurance Program to take certain continuing education courses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2172. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide relief from surcharges to small businesses and nonprofit organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2173. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to enhance the land-based unmanned aircraft system program of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2174. A bill to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer's Law and Kristen's Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2175. A bill to address recommendations made to Congress by the Government Accountability Office and detailed in the annual duplication report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2176. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2177. A bill to provide taxpayers with an improved understanding of Government programs through the disclosure of cost, performance, and areas of duplication among them, leverage existing data to achieve a functional Federal program inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2178. A bill to impose requirements in certain actions for patent infringement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2179. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2180. A bill to provide oversight of the border zone in which Federal agents may conduct vehicle checkpoints and stops and enter private land without a warrant, and to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2181. A bill to require the disclosure of information relating to cyberattacks on aircraft systems and maintenance and ground support systems for aircraft, to identify and address cybersecurity vulnerabilities to the United States commercial aviation system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2182. A bill to protect consumers from security and privacy threats to their motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2183. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2184. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require certain creditors to obtain certifications from institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2185. A bill to provide labor standards for certain energy jobs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2186. A bill to require entities to provide consumers with the opportunity to prohibit the entity from collecting or using certain data concerning the consumer and to request deletion of such data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLLEN):

S. 2187. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2188. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the license application process for small business investment companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to waive the guarantee fee for veterans and spouses of veterans for the Export Working Capital, International Trade, and Export Express programs; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2190. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to ensure that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is eligible for certain Small Business Administration programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2191. A bill to establish the Native American Outreach Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2192. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide funding assistance to reduce flood risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 2193. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 278. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Turkey's purchase of the S-400 air and missile defense system from the Russian Federation and its membership in NATO, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 279. A resolution calling for the designation of Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors 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. 178

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 285

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 373

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) 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. 952

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to require providers of broadband internet access service and edge services to clearly and conspicuously notify users of the privacy policies of those providers, to give users opt-in or opt-out approval rights with respect to the use of, disclosure of, and access to user information collected by those providers based on the level of sensitivity of the information, and for other purposes.

S. 1188

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors 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. 1340

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1340, a bill to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Mary-

land (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1437

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1437, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include truthful and non-misleading pricing information.

S. 1447

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1447, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure nonprofit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to increase the minimum age for sale of tobacco products to 21.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1641

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to sell the Alzheimer's semipostal stamp for 6 additional years.

S. 1764

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in the correctional and detention facilities.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 1850

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1850, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive acts and practices in connection with primary and secondary ticket sales, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the qualified contract exception to the extended low-income housing commitment rules for purposes of the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

S. 2028

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2028, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for new markets tax credit investments in the Rural Jobs Zone.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2062, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the 2026 World Cup unless the United States Soccer Federation provides equitable pay to the members of the United States Women's National Team and the United States Men's National Team.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2066, a bill to review United States Saudi Arabia Policy, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose certain activities relating to climate change, and for other purposes.

S. 2083

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2083, a bill to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure pay equity for amateur athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 2097

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2097, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations, to clarify the powers of immigration officers at such locations, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2102, a bill to provide funding for programs and activities under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

S. 2121

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2121, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2156. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE 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. 2156

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "S Corporation Modernization Act of 2019".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO S CORPORATION PASSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME RULES.

(a) INCREASED PERCENTAGE LIMIT.—Section 1375(a)(2) is amended by striking "25 percent" and inserting "60 percent".

(b) REPEAL OF EXCESSIVE PASSIVE INCOME AS A TERMINATION EVENT.—Section 1362(d) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1375(b) is amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(3) PASSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME DEFINED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term ‘passive investment income’ means gross receipts derived from royalties, rents, dividends, interest, and annuities.

“(B) EXCEPTION FOR INTEREST ON NOTES FROM SALES OF INVENTORY.—The term ‘passive investment income’ shall not include interest on any obligation acquired in the ordinary course of the corporation’s trade or business from its sale of property described in section 1221(a)(1).

“(C) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LENDING OR FINANCE COMPANIES.—If the S corporation meets the requirements of section 542(c)(6) for the taxable year, the term ‘passive investment income’ shall not include gross receipts for the taxable year which are derived directly from the active and regular conduct of a lending or finance business (as defined in section 542(d)(1)).

“(D) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DIVIDENDS.—If an S corporation holds stock in a C corporation meeting the requirements of section 1504(a)(2), the term ‘passive investment income’ shall not include dividends from such C corporation to the extent such dividends are attributable to the earnings and profits of such C corporation derived from the active conduct of a trade or business.

“(E) EXCEPTION FOR BANKS, ETC.—In the case of a bank (as defined in section 581) or a depository institution holding company (as defined in section 3(w)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(w)(1))), the term ‘passive investment income’ shall not include—

“(i) interest income earned by such bank or company, or

“(ii) dividends on assets required to be held by such bank or company, including stock in the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, or the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Bank or participation certificates issued by a Federal Intermediate Credit Bank.

“(F) GROSS RECEIPTS FROM THE SALES OF CERTAIN ASSETS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) CAPITAL ASSETS OTHER THAN STOCK AND SECURITIES.—In the case of dispositions of

capital assets (other than stock and securities), gross receipts from such dispositions shall be taken into account only to the extent of capital gain net income therefrom.

“(i) STOCK AND SECURITIES.—In the case of sales or exchanges of stock or securities, gross receipts shall be taken into account only to the extent of the gain therefrom.

“(G) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 1374.—The amount of passive investment income shall be determined by not taking into account any recognized built-in gain or loss of the S corporation for any taxable year in the recognition period. Terms used in the preceding sentence shall have the same respective meanings as when used in section 1374.”.

(2)(A) Section 26(b)(2)(J) is amended by striking “25 percent” and inserting “60 percent”.

(B) Section 1375(b)(1)(A)(i) is amended by striking “25 percent” and inserting “60 percent”.

(C) The heading for section 1375 is amended by striking “25 PERCENT” and inserting “60 PERCENT”.

(D) The item relating to section 1375 in the table of sections for part III of subchapter S of chapter 1 is amended by striking “25 percent” and inserting “60 percent”.

(3) Section 1042(c)(4)(A)(i) is amended by striking “section 1362(d)(3)(C)” and inserting “section 1375(b)(3)”.

(4) Section 1362(f)(1)(B) is amended by striking “paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

### SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF S CORPORATION ELIGIBLE SHAREHOLDERS TO INCLUDE IRAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1361(c)(2)(A)(vi) is amended to read as follows:

“(vi) A trust which constitutes an individual retirement account under section 408(a), including one designated as a Roth IRA under section 408A.”.

(b) SALE OF STOCK IN IRA RELATING TO S CORPORATION ELECTION EXEMPT FROM PROHIBITED TRANSACTION RULES.—Section 4975(d)(16) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and by redesignating subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D), respectively, and

(2) by striking “such bank or company” in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated) and inserting “the issuer of such stock”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

### SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF S CORPORATION BUILT-IN GAIN AMOUNT UPON DEATH OF SHAREHOLDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part II of subchapter S of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 1369. AMORTIZATION OF BUILT-IN GAIN AMOUNT UPON DEATH OF SHAREHOLDER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A person holding stock in an electing S corporation the basis of which is determined under section 1014(a) (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘shareholder’) shall be allowed a deduction with respect to the S corporation built-in gain amount. The amount of such deduction for any taxable year shall be determined by amortizing the S corporation built-in gain amount over the 15-year period beginning with the month which includes the applicable valuation date.

“(b) S CORPORATION BUILT-IN GAIN AMOUNT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘S corporation built-in gain amount’ means the lesser of—

“(1) the excess (if any) of—

“(A) the basis of the stock referred to in subsection (a) as determined under section 1014(a), over

“(B) the adjusted basis of such stock immediately before the death of the decedent, or

“(2) the pro rata share (determined as of the applicable valuation date) of—

“(A) the aggregate fair market value of all property held by the S corporation which is of a character subject to depreciation or amortization, over

“(B) the aggregate adjusted basis of all such property held by the S corporation as of such date.

“(c) ELECTING S CORPORATION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘electing S corporation’ means, with respect to any shareholder, any S corporation which elects the application of this section with respect to such shareholder at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

“(d) APPLICABLE VALUATION DATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘applicable valuation date’ means—

“(1) in the case of a decedent with respect to which the executor of the decedent’s estate elects the application of section 2032, the date 6 months after the decedent’s death, and

“(2) in the case of any other decedent, the date of the decedent’s death.

“(e) ACCELERATED DEDUCTION IN CASE OF DISPOSITION OF S CORPORATION PROPERTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the electing S corporation disposes of any property which was taken into account under subsection (b)(2), then the deduction allowed under subsection (a) with respect to any stock, for the taxable year of the shareholder in which or with which the taxable year of the S corporation which includes the date of such disposition ends, shall (except as otherwise provided in this section) not be less than the lesser of—

“(A) the pro rata share of the gain recognized on such disposition, or

“(B) the amount determined under subsection (b)(2) by only taking into account such property.

“(2) OVERALL ALLOWANCE NOT INCREASED.—No deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) with respect to any stock for any taxable year to the extent that such deduction (when added to the deductions so allowed for all prior taxable years) exceeds the S corporation built-in gain amount with respect to such stock.

“(f) RECHARACTERIZATION OF GAINS AS ORDINARY INCOME TO EXTENT OF DEDUCTION.—If—

“(1) stock of an S corporation with respect to which a deduction was allowed under this section, or

“(2) property which was taken into account under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such stock,

is disposed of at a gain (determined without regard to whether or not such gain is recognized and reduced by any amount of gain which is treated as ordinary income under any other provision of this subtitle), the amount of such gain (or the shareholder’s pro rata share of such gain in the case of property described in paragraph (2)) shall be treated as gain which is ordinary income (and shall be recognized notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle) to the extent of the excess of the aggregate deductions allowable under this section with respect to such stock for the taxable year of such disposition and all prior taxable years over the amounts taken into account under this subsection for all prior taxable years.

“(g) TERMINATION OF AMORTIZATION.—No deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) with respect to any stock in an electing S corporation with respect to any period beginning after the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which the corporation’s election under section 1362 terminates, or

“(2) the date on which the shareholder transfers such stock to any other person.

“(h) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.—

“(1) DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ESTATES OR TRUSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a distribution of stock from an estate or trust to a beneficiary, the beneficiary (and not the estate or trust) shall be treated as the shareholder to which this section applies with respect to periods after such distribution.

“(2) CERTAIN TRANSFERS INVOLVING SPOUSES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a transfer described in section 1041, the transferee (and not the transferor) shall be treated as the shareholder to which this section applies with respect to periods after such transfer.

“(i) TREATMENT OF INCOME IN RESPECT OF THE DECEDENT.—

“(1) ADJUSTMENT TO BUILT-IN GAIN OF PROPERTY HELD BY S CORPORATION.—For purposes of subsection (b)(2), the fair market value of any property taken into account under subparagraph (A) thereof shall be decreased by any amount of income in respect of the decedent with respect to such property to which section 691 applies. For purposes of subsection (e)(1)(A), the gain recognized on the disposition of such property shall be reduced by such amount.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO BASIS OF S CORPORATION STOCK.—For adjustment to basis of S corporation stock, see section 1367(b)(4)(B).

“(j) REPORTING.—Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, for purposes of section 6037, the amounts determined under subsections (b)(2), (e)(1), and (f)(2) shall be treated as items of the corporation and the pro rata share determined under such subsection shall be furnished to the shareholder under section 6037(b).”.

(b) ADJUSTMENT TO BASIS OF STOCK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1367(a)(2) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

“(F) the amount of the shareholder’s deduction allowable under section 1369.”.

(2) ADJUSTMENT NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS.—Section 1368 is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting “(other than subsection (a)(2)(F) thereof)” after “section 1367”, and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(i) by striking “this title and the phrase” and inserting “this title, the phrase”, and

(ii) by inserting “, and no adjustment shall be made under section 1367(a)(2)(F)” after “section 1367(a)(2)”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part II of subchapter S of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 1369. Amortization of built-in gain amount upon death of shareholder.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to decedents dying after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

### SEC. 5. REVOCATIONS OF S CORPORATION ELECTIONS.

(a) REVOCATIONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 1362(d) is amended—

(1) by striking “subparagraph (D)” in subparagraph (C) and inserting “subparagraphs (D) and (E)”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) AUTHORITY TO TREAT LATE REVOCATIONS AS TIMELY.—If—

“(i) a revocation under subparagraph (A) is made for any taxable year after the date prescribed by this paragraph for making such revocation for such taxable year or no such revocation is made for any taxable year, and

“(ii) the Secretary determines that there was reasonable cause for the failure to timely make such revocation, the Secretary may treat such a revocation as timely made for such taxable year.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to revocations after December 31, 2019.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2180. A bill to provide oversight of the border zone in which Federal agents may conduct vehicle checkpoints and stops and enter private land without a warrant, and to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, “Show me your papers.” Those are words that you should never hear once inside the United States. Unless a government agent has a legitimate reason to stop and search you—a reasonable suspicion or probable cause—Americans should not be subject to questioning and detention for merely going about their daily lives. This is a fundamental tenet of the Fourth Amendment. Yet Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations are effectively immune from the Fourth Amendment within a broadly defined “border zone.”

And this so-called border zone need not be near the border at all: Seventy-year-old regulations define it as up to 100 miles from any border, land or sea. According to the CBP, southern Vermont is in the border zone, as is the entire State of Florida, and even Richmond, Virginia. In fact two-thirds of the entire U.S. population is in the border zone.

In Vermont, under the Trump administration, the border zone has resulted in highway checkpoints and bus boardings. In May, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents set up the first highway checkpoint in a decade. The checkpoint was set up miles from the Canadian border in South Hero, Vermont. It was in operation for hours. We do not know how many hundreds of cars were stopped, but we do know that it did not lead to a single arrest or seizure. Last month, the CBP established a second checkpoint in the same location. This time nearly 900 cars were stopped, and only one individual was detained—for a visa overstay. Border Patrol agents have also boarded Amtrak trains in White River Junction and boarded a Greyhound bus at the Burlington airport, demanding to know whether passengers were citizens.

Today, I am joining with Senator MURRAY in reintroducing the Border Zone Reasonableness Restoration Act of 2019. Our legislation would establish critical privacy protections by reducing the unjustifiably large border zone from 100 miles to 25 miles.

I find it difficult to believe that these checkpoints are an effective use of law enforcement resources. Border Patrol

stations in Vermont are already stretched thin. And just last month the Senate passed a bipartisan \$4.6 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border. The Department of Homeland Security’s limited resources should be focused on improving conditions of detention and providing food, appropriate shelter, and medical care to families fleeing violence and dire poverty, not conducting pointless vehicle checkpoints miles from the northern border in Vermont.

The Border Zone Reasonableness Restoration Act is based on an amendment that Senator MURRAY and I successfully attached to comprehensive immigration reform legislation in 2013. The 100 mile “border zone”—and the similar 25 mile zone where many types of warrantless property searches are permitted—predates this current administration, but the actions of this administration have shown just how much we need it. That bill passed the Senate with a bipartisan vote of 68 to 32.

Americans’ right to privacy does not end simply because you are within 100 miles from our land and sea borders. I hope all members of Congress will join us and support this commonsense legislation to ensure that every person in this country receives the constitutional protections to which they are entitled.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2184. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require certain creditors to obtain certifications from institutions of higher education, 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. 2184

*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 “Know Before You Owe Private Education Loan Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) **INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), before a creditor may issue any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection, the creditor shall obtain from the relevant institution of higher education where such loan is to be used for a student, such institution’s certification of—

“(i) the enrollment status of the student;

“(ii) the student’s cost of attendance at the institution as determined by the institu-

tion under part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

“(iii) the difference between—

“(I) such cost of attendance; and

“(II) the student’s estimated financial assistance, including such assistance received under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) and other financial assistance known to the institution, as applicable.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a creditor may issue funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection without obtaining from the relevant institution of higher education such institution’s certification if such institution fails to provide within 15 business days of the creditor’s request for such certification—

“(i) notification of the institution’s refusal to certify the request; or

“(ii) notification that the institution has received the request for certification and will need additional time to comply with the certification request.

“(C) **LOANS DISBURSED WITHOUT CERTIFICATION.**—If a creditor issues funds without obtaining a certification, as described in subparagraph (B), such creditor shall report the issuance of such funds in a manner determined by the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (9), (10), and (11) as paragraphs (10), (11), and (12), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

“(9) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—

“(A) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS.**—

“(i) **LOAN STATEMENT.**—A creditor that issues any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection shall send loan statements, where such loan is to be used for a student, to borrowers of such funds not less than once every 3 months during the time that such student is enrolled at an institution of higher education.

“(ii) **CONTENTS OF LOAN STATEMENT.**—Each statement described in clause (i) shall—

“(I) report the borrower’s total remaining debt to the creditor, including accrued but unpaid interest and capitalized interest;

“(II) report any debt increases since the last statement; and

“(III) list the current interest rate for each loan.

“(B) **NOTIFICATION OF LOANS DISBURSED WITHOUT CERTIFICATION.**—On or before the date a creditor issues any funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection, the creditor shall notify the relevant institution of higher education, in writing, of the amount of the extension of credit and the student on whose behalf credit is extended. The form of such written notification shall be subject to the regulations of the Bureau.

“(C) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—A creditor that issues funds with respect to an extension of credit described in this subsection shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Bureau containing the required information about private student loans to be determined by the Director of the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretary of Education.”.

(b) **DEFINITION OF PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN.**—Section 140(a)(8)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)(8)(A)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(2) in clause (i), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title VII or title VIII of the Public

Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq. and 296 et seq.); and”.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau shall issue regulations in final form to implement paragraphs (3) and (9) of section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)), as amended by subsection (a). Such regulations shall become effective not later than 6 months after their date of issuance.

### SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (28) and inserting the following:

“(28)(A) Upon the request of a private educational lender, acting in connection with an application initiated by a borrower for a private education loan in accordance with section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act, the institution shall within 15 days of receipt of the request—

“(i) provide certification to such private educational lender—

“(I) that the student who initiated the application for the private education loan, or on whose behalf the application was initiated, is enrolled or is scheduled to enroll at the institution;

“(II) of such student’s cost of attendance at the institution as determined under part F of this title; and

“(III) of the difference between—

“(aa) the cost of attendance at the institution; and

“(bb) the student’s estimated financial assistance received under this title and other assistance known to the institution, as applicable;

“(ii) notify the creditor that the institution has received the request for certification and will need additional time to comply with the certification request; or

“(iii) provide notice to the private educational lender of the institution’s refusal to certify the private education loan pursuant to subparagraph (D).

“(B) With respect to a certification request described in subparagraph (A), and prior to providing such certification under subparagraph (A)(i) or providing notice of the refusal to provide certification under subparagraph (A)(iii), the institution shall—

“(i) determine whether the student who initiated the application for the private education loan, or on whose behalf the application was initiated, has applied for and exhausted the Federal financial assistance available to such student under this title and inform the student accordingly; and

“(ii) provide the borrower whose loan application has prompted the certification request by a private educational lender, as described in subparagraph (A)(i), with the following information and disclosures:

“(I) The amount of additional Federal student assistance for which the borrower is eligible and the advantages of Federal loans under this title, including disclosure of the fixed interest rates, deferments, flexible repayment options, loan forgiveness programs, and additional protections, and the higher student loan limits for dependent students whose parents are not eligible for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan.

“(II) The borrower’s ability to select a private educational lender of the borrower’s choice.

“(III) The impact of a proposed private education loan on the borrower’s potential eligibility for other financial assistance, including Federal financial assistance under this title.

“(IV) The borrower’s right to accept or reject a private education loan within the 30-day period following a private educational lender’s approval of a borrower’s application and about a borrower’s 3-day right to cancel period.

“(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the terms ‘private educational lender’ and ‘private education loan’ have the meanings given such terms in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the effective date of the regulations described in section 2(c).

(c) PREFERRED LENDER ARRANGEMENT.—Section 151(8)(A)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1019(8)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “certifying,” after “promoting,”.

### SEC. 4. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24 months after the issuance of regulations under section 2(c), the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Secretary of Education shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the compliance of—

(1) private educational lenders with section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(3)), as amended by section 2; and

(2) institutions of higher education with section 487(a)(28) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(28)), as amended by section 3.

(b) CONTENTS.—The contents of the report described in subsection (a) shall include information about the degree to which specific institutions utilize certifications in effectively—

(1) encouraging the exhaustion of Federal student loan eligibility by borrowers prior to taking on private education loan debt; and

(2) lowering private education loan debt by borrowers.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2192. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide funding assistance to reduce flood risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the State Flood Mitigation Revolving Fund Act of 2019 along with Senators KENNEDY and MENENDEZ.

The purpose of our bill is to reduce flood risk and the costs associated with flooding by establishing a State revolving loan program to fund mitigation projects for property owners and communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. By funding projects that reduce risk, such as home elevations, flood proofing, acquisitions, and environmental restoration, the bill also provides an avenue to help middle-income and low-income property owners reduce their flood insurance premiums. It is a proposal that has been endorsed by over 200 local and national organizations, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, Association of State Floodplain Managers, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, the Property Casualty Insurance Association of America, the Na-

ture Conservancy, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the U.S. Resiliency Council, and others.

Flooding is the most costly hazard facing American property owners. With increasing frequency we see news stories of catastrophic flooding in communities across the Nation. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, seven out of ten Presidential Disaster Declarations in the last ten years have involved flooding, and data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that there were 27 flooding disasters or hurricanes in the last decade that each caused more than \$1 billion in damage.

But the increase in major flooding disasters has also been accompanied by increases in nuisance, urban, and high tide flooding events, which don’t trigger the full complement of Federal disaster assistance but are devastating to every homeowner and community that is affected.

Experts agree that the best way to reduce the cost of flooding is to engage in proactive, not reactive, flood mitigation. The National Institute of Building Sciences’ 2018 Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves study found that every Federal dollar spent on up-front mitigation provides \$6 in national benefits, and investments in flood mitigation yield \$7 in benefits per dollar spent. This is the kind of saving the State Flood Mitigation Revolving Fund Act seeks to promote and leverage.

Modeled on the successful Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, this bill creates a straightforward and easily accessible program through which States can offer low-interest loans to property owners and communities who want to mitigate their flood risk. By creating a revolving fund, the bill will allow States to design and more efficiently implement their own flood mitigation strategies provided that such strategies help achieve Federal objectives such as reducing disaster payments.

Within this construct, the bill gives States the flexibility to undertake flood mitigation projects expeditiously. The bill requires States to provide matching funds and gives them the ability to further leverage Federal dollars, as many already do under the drinking water and clean water SRF programs.

Additionally, the bill ensures mitigation assistance is focused on where the flood risk is greatest and where people are most vulnerable. The bill requires states to prioritize mitigation assistance for low-income homeowners and geographic areas, pre-FIRM buildings, and severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss buildings. Finally, it gives states the option of providing additional subsidization for low-income property-owners and communities that simply do not have the wherewithal to assume additional debt.

Mr. President, as we talk about appropriate investments in infrastructure, mitigation is one place where we



should be investing. I invite the rest of our colleagues to join me, Senator KENNEDY, and Senator MENENDEZ in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 278—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING TURKEY'S PURCHASE OF THE S-400 AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 278

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Turkey have been North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies since 1952;

Whereas NATO exists for democratic nation states to band together to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law";

Whereas NATO Member States "seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area";

Whereas the primary threat posed by the Soviet Union that precipitated the formation of NATO continues today, and recent actions by the Government of the Russian Federation have reaffirmed the importance of this alliance to the security of the Member States;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has threatened the peace and security of the North Atlantic area, invading and occupying the territory of its non-NATO neighbors and menacing NATO Member States since 2008;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has interfered and attempted to wreak havoc in the election processes of NATO Member States and continues to do so;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has maintained and strengthened its ties with the repressive and corrupt regime of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela in an effort to prop him up in his illegitimate hold over the state;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is strengthening its ties with the Government of Cuba, including a recent port call in Havana with its most powerful warship;

Whereas the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has taken the Republic of Turkey down a path of authoritarianism and human rights abuses, aligns itself with radical Islamic terror groups, and agitates against regional allies of the United States, such as Israel;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has cooperated with the Governments of the Russian Federation and Iran against the strategic interests of the NATO Member States, continues to occupy northern Cyprus, and continues to unjustly detain United States citizens;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has supported the Maduro regime with illegal financial transactions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has acquired the S-400 air and mis-

sile defense system from the Russian Federation, which constitutes a direct and dire threat to the security interests of the United States and NATO; and

Whereas the foregoing demonstrates that the Republic of Turkey is consistently contradicting the standards and purposes of the NATO treaty: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that the Republic of Turkey's receipt of the Russian S-400 air and missile defense system is a significant transaction within the meaning of section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 9525);

(2) calls for full implementation of sanctions under CAATSA;

(3) calls upon the President to consult with NATO Member States, pursuant to Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949, based upon threats to the political independence and security of the Parties by the Russian actions described in the preamble; and

(4) calls upon the President, during such consultation with NATO Member States, to review the Treaty with regard to the factors "affecting peace and security in the North Atlantic area" described in the preamble, and to consider the continued inclusion of the Republic of Turkey in NATO.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 279—CALLING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF ANTIFA AS A DOMESTIC TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

#### S. RES. 279

Whereas members of Antifa, because they believe that free speech is equivalent to violence, have used threats of violence in the pursuit of suppressing opposing political ideologies;

Whereas Antifa represents opposition to the democratic ideals of peaceful assembly and free speech for all;

Whereas members of Antifa have physically assaulted journalists and other individuals during protests and riots in Berkeley, California;

Whereas in February of 2018, journalist Andy Ngo was intimidated and threatened with violence by protestors affiliated with Antifa;

Whereas on June 29, 2019, while covering demonstrations in Portland, Oregon, journalist Andy Ngo was physically attacked by protestors affiliated with Antifa;

Whereas employees of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (referred to in this preamble as "ICE") were subjected to doxxing and violent threats after their social media profiles, phone numbers, and home addresses were posted on the Internet by left wing activists;

Whereas according to the Wall Street Journal, an ICE officer was followed by left wing activists and "confronted when he went to pick up his daughter from summer camp", and another "had his name and photo plastered on flyers outside his home accusing him of being part of the 'Gestapo'";

Whereas the ICE office in southwest Portland, Oregon, was shut down for days due to threats and occupation by Antifa members;

Whereas Rose City Antifa, an Antifa group founded in 2007 in Portland, Oregon, explicitly rejects the authority of law enforcement officers in the United States, and Federal, State, and local governments, to protect free speech and stop acts of violence;

Whereas Rose City Antifa rejects the civil treatment of individuals the group labels as fascists, stating: "We can't just argue against them; we have to prevent them from organizing by any means necessary."; and

Whereas there is no place for violence in the discourse between people in the United States, or in any civil society, because the United States is a place where there is a diversity of ideas and opinions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the groups and organizations across the country who act under the banner of Antifa to be designated as domestic terrorist organizations;

(2) unequivocally condemns the violent actions of Antifa groups as unacceptable acts for anyone in the United States;

(3) expresses the need for the peaceful communication of varied ideas in the United States;

(4) urges any group or organizations in the United States to voice its opinions without using violence or threatening the health, safety, or well-being of any other persons, groups, or law enforcement officers in the United States; and

(5) calls upon the Federal Government to redouble its efforts, using all available and appropriate tools, to combat the spread of all forms of domestic terrorism, including White supremacist terrorism.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 927. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1694, to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct lunar activities to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site, and for other purposes.

SA 928. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1327, to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 929. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1327, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 927. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1694, to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct lunar activities to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the *Apollo 11* landing site, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 2(b), strike paragraph (3) and insert the following:

(3) The President should work with other countries to develop best practices to ensure the protection of historic lunar landing sites and artifacts.

SA 928. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1327, to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike paragraph (1) of section 2(a) and insert the following:

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “\$4,600,000,000” and all that follows through “expended” and inserting “\$10,180,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2029, and \$10,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2030 through 2092, to remain available until expended”; and

**SA 929.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1327, to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

**SEC. 5. SEQUESTRATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “direct spending” and “sequestration” have the meanings given such terms in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)); and

(2) the term “nonexempt direct spending” means all direct spending except—

(A) direct spending for benefits payable under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.);

(B) direct spending for the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(C) direct spending for net interest (all of major functional category 900);

(D) direct spending for any program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) direct spending for Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans (28-0401-0-1-701); and

(F) direct spending for the child nutrition program (as defined in section 25(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(b)).

(b) SEQUESTRATION ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2020, as soon as is practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, and on the dates the Office of Management and Budget issues its sequestration preview reports for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, pursuant to section 254(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(c)), the President shall order a sequestration, effective upon issuance, that reduces all non-exempt direct spending by the uniform percentage necessary to reduce the total amount of nonexempt direct spending for such fiscal year by \$2,036,000,000.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—When implementing the sequestration of nonexempt direct spending under paragraph (1), the Office of Management and Budget—

(A) shall follow the procedures specified in section 6 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 935) and the special rules specified in section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 906); and

(B) shall not follow the exemptions specified in section 255 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905).

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have 6 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 Sen-

ate, 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 Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing pending military nominations.

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 Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Douglas Russell Cole, and Matthew Walden McFarland, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Robert Anthony Molloy, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and Kea Whetzel Riggs, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tristan Brown, a member of my staff, be granted temporary floor privileges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 582 AND H.R. 748**

Mr. MCCONNELL. I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 582) to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 748) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE “APOLLO 11” MOON LANDING**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con. Res. 19.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 5, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, July 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 Esper nomination; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019, AT 3 P.M.**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate,  
at 5:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday,  
July 22, 2019, at 3 p.m.

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by  
the Senate July 18, 2019:

## THE JUDICIARY

CLIFTON L. CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED  
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT  
OF TENNESSEE.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AMBAS-  
SADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF  
SLOVENIA.

DONALD R. TAPIA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR  
EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING LOU MONEYMAKER

#### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Moneymaker on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bosma Enterprises. Throughout his impressive career, Lou proved to be an innovative leader in the Indianapolis nonprofit community. Over the past 17 years, Lou served as the President and CEO of Bosma Enterprises, working tirelessly to improve the quality of life of blind and visually impaired Hoosiers. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Lou's dedication to transforming lives in Indiana.

A lifelong Hoosier, Lou graduated from George Washington High School in Indianapolis before joining the U.S. Army in 1967. After completing his service in the Army in 1973, Lou attended Indiana University where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. Following that, Lou earned a master's degree in school administration from Butler University. Lou transitioned these achievements into an extraordinary 32-year career with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI), one of the largest PreK-12 schools for visually impaired students in the country. ISBVI has earned an excellent national reputation for its commitment to the Indianapolis community, in part, because of Lou's strong leadership and charisma. As a track and field and wrestling coach, Lou inspired many students to succeed. This coaching, combined with his work as the Dean of Students at ISBVI, helped the institution gain national recognition for its innovative educational opportunities.

After leaving the ISBVI and joining Bosma Enterprises in 2001, Lou immediately set about driving the nonprofit to a new level of exceptional growth and success. Under his guidance as President and CEO, Bosma's revenues grew from two million dollars to over seventy million dollars per year. This growth allowed Bosma Enterprises to expand its training and employment facilities to serve nearly 800 blind or visually impaired individuals per year, helping to drive down the nearly 70 percent unemployment rate among such individuals. Bosma Enterprises employs more than 100 blind and visually impaired Hoosiers, making them the largest such employer in the state.

Today, Bosma offers programs to help those living with blindness and visual impairment maintain a positive lifestyle, especially by giving them tools to live independently. Through their new Center for Visionary Solutions for the Blind, Bosma provides programs to help people of all ages succeed in higher education and find work. Their innovative

BosmaForce program utilizes modern education tools to give students around the country access to high skilled job training, in particular, computer and technical jobs. Bosma's Orientation and Mobility Trail gives visually impaired individuals an opportunity to practice navigation in a real-world environment on a variety of surfaces and around many types of obstacles. Together, programs of this type serve to benefit many of the 160,000 Hoosiers who are blind or visually impaired. These programs would not have been able to reach such a level of success without Lou's guidance and the commitment of Bosma's team of more than 220 employees, along with hundreds of volunteers, to fulfill his plan for the future.

Lou's passion for helping Indiana's visually impaired community extends far beyond his role at Bosma. A leading founder of the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), Lou helped to transform the lives of many athletes all around the world. His involvement with both Ability Indiana and the Association for the Employment of People who are Blind demonstrates his commitment to the mission to empower visually impaired athletes. Additionally, his work on the 1996 Paralympic Organizing Committee helped to expand the reach of Paralympic organizations throughout the United States.

On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Lou on his extraordinary career of leadership and service. I extend my gratitude for all the contributions he has made to our community. While I know Lou will be missed at Bosma Enterprises, I wish the very best to him and his family as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

### CHANGE OVER THE YEARS

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I'm very "animated" to announce that this year is the 50th anniversary of San Diego Comic-Con.

This event began with a heavy focus on independent artists and cultivating a community of folks with similar interests—comics.

Comic-Con has always been about supporting creative communities and celebrating what makes us special.

Today, Comic-Con has grown to include industry legends, independent artists, TV stars, and movie studios—but it never stopped being about fans coming together to share their interests.

This new era has expanded the levels of interest to a wider audience and brought in more fans of current media.

In an industry that was once dismissed and disparaged as not serious art, celebrating in-

clusion is an important staple of our community.

I am excited for the next 50 years of panels, whether in the traditional comic book or celebrity style, to flourish in Comic-Con of San Diego.

### THANKING GLENDA GUNDERMANN FOR HER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SUGAR LAND

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Glenda Gundermann for her 35 years of service to our community.

Gundermann has been an important leader within our Sugar Land community over the past three and a half decades. Glenda has worked with five mayors and city managers, managing the annexations of Sugar Creek, First Colony and numerous other cities. Her work has encouraged more participation in local government and has led to Sugar Land being named one of our nation's top cities for transparency and engagement. During Tropical Storm Allison, she was instrumental in delivering emergency resources to those impacted.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Glenda Gundermann. Her service to this country will be remembered, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DEBRA A. HAALAND

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, on July 17, I was inadvertently not recorded for Roll Call vote 493. I had intended to vote "Aye." As a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 748, the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019, I strongly support this important legislation that will help reduce the cost of healthcare for the over 181 million Americans who depend on employer-sponsored health insurance. To avoid the 40 percent excise tax, many employers have been making changes in plan design that are driving up deductibles and out-of-pocket costs, yet one in five employers are expected to hit the taxable threshold in 2022. As a result, this tax is placing a disproportionate burden on working families, which was not the intent of Congress when it enacted the Affordable Care Act, and I intended to vote "Aye" on this legislation to repeal it.

• 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.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FREDERICK JOHN HORNE, II FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Frederick John Horne, II for his dedicated service. His commitment to country and community is worthy of commendation.

Sergeant Horne entered the Armed Forces on September 7, 1967 and was stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky. He served in Vietnam where he was wounded in combat twice and received two Purple Hearts. Sergeant Horne was honorably discharged for his dedicated service on September 1, 1973. He returned to Michigan after a year at Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania and worked for General Motors until his eventual retirement. Today we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Sergeant Horne receiving his Purple Heart for his sacrifice. He has shown tremendous bravery and selflessness throughout his decorated service.

Sergeant Horne has shown a tremendous love for his country and community. His years as a member of the United States Military exemplify the selflessness of public service and stand as a testament to duty, honor, and country. We thank Sergeant Horne for his commitment to protecting the American people. His service underscores the significant price of freedom, and the dedication and sacrifice of our servicemembers in the Armed Forces and their families.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Frederick John Horne, II for his exemplary service. He has effectively served Michigan and our nation through his selflessness and leadership.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FIRE CHIEF ROBERT B. ELWELL, JR. OF POMONA

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert B. Elwell, Jr. of the City of Pomona, and his tireless dedication to serving the Inland Empire community.

Robert Elwell graduated from the Crafton Hills College Paramedic Program and proceeded to work as a paramedic for a local ambulance company. He was then hired by the Ontario Fire Department in October 1985, where he worked for over 34 years in a variety of assignments including Fire Captain and Battalion Chief. In this role, he also helped develop the department's active shooter response program and assisted several Southern California cities with creating similar programs.

Former Chief Elwell graduated from several fire service state and federal programs and was both a state certified Fire Officer and Chief Officer. He also served on a number of fire service committees and advisory boards that focused on leadership, mentoring and,

training. In April 2016, he was promoted to Fire Chief, a position he held until his retirement in December 2018.

Chief Elwell was a dedicated husband, loyal friend, and patriotic public servant. He enjoyed RV'ing with his wife Anne, off-roading, recreational shooting, and spending time with his close friends. He will be fondly remembered by his loved ones, friends, colleagues, and extended fire family.

For his remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Chief Robert B. Elwell, Jr. today. His decades of commitment and contributions to the city he loved are worthy of admiration, and his memory will live on through the countless lives he has impacted. May he rest in peace.

WALNUT BEND ELEMENTARY ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM WINS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Walnut Bend Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team for placing first in their division at the world finals.

Nearly 800 teams ranging from elementary to college levels from across the United States and the world participated in the problem-solving competition at Michigan State University in May. The Walnut Bend team has made it to the finals several times, but this year they finally took first place, defeating a team from China to win. Their months of hard work certainly paid off.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Walnut Bend Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team for placing first in the world finals. We look forward to seeing them win again next year.

RECOGNIZING THE MARQUETTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, It is my honor to recognize the Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs Committee (MCDVAC) for its service to Veterans and their families. Through its tireless work, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to its community, the MCDVAC has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Marquette County Veterans Affairs Committee consists of five Veteran volunteers appointed by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners to four-year terms. They work to provide the Veterans of Marquette County with the benefits and services they have earned through their service, including burial benefits, emergency financial relief, and disability compensation. They work with programs like the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network, which provides trans-

portation from the Jacobetti Home for Veterans and other areas in the county to the Oscar G Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. The organization also aids in the administration of the Soldier Sailor Relief Fund, which provides financial help for Veterans who are unable to provide for the basic necessities of life without causing hardship, and works to help Veterans and their families in applying for a broad range of benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Day after day, the Marquette County Veterans Affairs Committee continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, It's my honor to recognize the Marquette County Veterans Affairs Committee for decades of success, and service to the Veterans of the Upper Peninsula. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIST CATHEDRAL

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Diocese of Orange Christ Cathedral on the completion of its renovations. The Christ Cathedral, formerly known as the "Crystal Cathedral," has been a recognizable architectural marvel landmark in Garden Grove since 1955. The 34-acre land has been a beacon to the community and continues to be a space for community members to practice their faith.

In 1955, protestant mega-church leader Dr. Robert Schuller began preaching at the Orange Drive-in Theater. By 1975, his congregation outgrew the first church and Dr. Schuller began searching for architects to build a creative and beautiful space for worship. He worked with Philip Johnson and John Burgee to create a plan for an all glass church. In 2012, the campus and its buildings were sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange and have since become the new spiritual center of the division.

Starting in 2015, the campus began major renovations including extensive restorations to the grounds and buildings. These renovations included the restoration of 11,000 glass panes, the construction of scaffolding inside the cathedral, and the design of sacred art. Construction workers involved in the project logged over 100,000 hours of work without a single accident. The renovations are now complete, and today the refurbished cathedral is ready to serve as a spiritual home to Orange County's more than 1.3 million Catholics, and the local community at-large through services and programs available to everyone including weddings, conferences, concerts, and family-friendly events.

It is my distinct honor to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the new building design of the Christ Cathedral.

RIDGEVIEW CHARTER MIDDLE  
SCHOOL COMMENDATION HON-  
ORING PRINCIPAL OPIE  
BLACKWELL

### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and Ridgeview Charter Middle School Principal Opie Blackwell. A good principal knows that his or her students need a robust support system along with a strong education to guarantee success in the classroom and in life. This philosophy is the basis upon which Mr. Blackwell has structured his school.

Principal Blackwell demonstrates exceptional dedication to ensuring that the students at Ridgeview Charter Middle School receive the quality education that they deserve. He is actively involved in the daily life at Ridgeview, takes time to chaperone school trips, and is committed to the wellbeing of the faculty.

Principal Blackwell also takes pride in recognizing outstanding members of the school's staff. A few weeks before the last day of the school year, Mr. Blackwell took to social media to document an impromptu jump rope competition that took place during a 6th grade Chinese class. The class had ventured outside to practice their Chinese when the students and teachers began to see who could jump rope the longest. The students won, as Mr. Blackwell proudly noted, but he also gave the teachers their due credit. This friendly competition is one of many examples of how hard Mr. Blackwell and his colleagues work to give their students a positive and engaging learning environment.

This year, that hard work was recognized by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform as a Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch. The National Forum is a prestigious organization of educators, researchers, and officers committed to promoting academic excellence for young students.

In 1999, the National Forum selected four middle schools from across the country as the first Schools to Watch. Since then, the program has expanded to 18 states and honored 465 schools. Ridgeview Charter Middle is one of nine schools in Georgia recognized as a School to Watch. The National Forum strives to make every middle-grade school one that is academically excellent, socially equitable, and responsive to the developmental needs and interests of middle schoolers. It has developed tools to help schools meet their criteria to expand their program across the country.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School's policies for the classroom and overall school culture soar above and beyond the Forum's standards. When the National Forum staff spent time at Ridgeview, they saw that almost every student was actively engaged in the classroom and teachers were using a wide variety of learning strategies to assist their students.

As National Forum staff spoke to students, it was evident that Ridgeview students feel that they can be heard by their teachers and administrators when an issue arises. As a result, students are encouraged to give their input and help make changes to improve the school.

The student-first culture is evident at Ridgeview Charter Middle School. Student work is clearly displayed in the hallways, and the faculty and staff are familiar faces at music concerts and the annual musical. Mr. Blackwell recorded the finale of this year's musical, *Alice in Wonderland*, and posted it to social media with encouraging words about the performance and the work done by students, faculty, and parents.

In addition to the environment created by teachers and staff, school administrators have worked to ensure that the school is one that is clean and comfortable. Music is played in the hallways during class change to create a calming and pleasant atmosphere. Inspirational messages painted on the walls add a culture of positivity, and those messages convey the high expectations the school has for students.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School stands out as a success story in public education. In his principal's message on the school's website, Principal Blackwell made his formal title "Proud Principal". With such an exceptional review by the National Forum, he and the entire Ridgeview Charter Middle School family certainly should feel proud of the school, its faculty and staff, and most of all, the outstanding student body.

CHRISTINA VARGAS RECEIVES  
THE CHANCELLOR'S EXCEL-  
LENCE AWARD

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christina Vargas for receiving the Chancellor's Excellence Award from Texas State Technical College in Fort Bend County.

A Rosenberg native, Christina has been at TSTC for two years and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Enrollment Management. The Chancellor's Excellence Award is given to employees who are recommended by their peers and exhibit TSTC's core values of Excellence, Accountability, Service and Integrity. Christina was one of only 35 recipients from across the state to earn this award. Through her time at TSTC, Christina has helped and inspired her coworkers and students alike.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Christina Vargas on receiving the Chancellor's Excellence Award. I thank her for her dedication to our students.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHMOND  
BELL, RECIPIENT OF THE  
FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Richmond Bell as he is awarded the French Legion of Honor, 75 years after bravely serving in the United States Army at the Battle of Normandy.

At only 18 years old, Mr. Bell enlisted in the 29th Infantry in 1943. After many members of his regiment lost their lives on D-Day, Mr. Bell, along with 14 other soldiers, were sent to France in an essential support effort of the remaining American Troops.

While serving on the frontlines each day for more than six weeks, Mr. Bell fought with courage and dedication to his country. He continuously risked his life for the war effort and the safety of his fellow soldiers.

In December of 1945, Mr. Bell returned to his hometown of Wellfleet, Massachusetts, honorably discharged with three Purple Hearts. A lifetime resident of the town, Mr. Bell is a beloved and respected member of the Wellfleet community. He is the son of the town doctor and a former paperboy for the Cape Cod Standard. Mr. Bell, now "semi-retired," lives with his wife Gail. He has 5 children, four step-children and 26 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richmond Bell for his dedication to his country. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his immense bravery and valiant efforts through a critical time in our nation's history.

### INTRODUCTION OF SAILORS ACT

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise with my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus to introduce the SAILORS ACT, or the "Stopping Aggressive Incursions on Liberty by Ordering Russian Sanctions Act."

This bill would direct the Administration to sanction 24 senior officers of the Russian Federal Security Service and its border patrol until it releases all 24 Ukrainian sailors and the three vessels it illegally seized in the Kerch Strait on November 25, 2018.

On that day, an unprovoked Russia brazenly fired upon and took hostage 24 Ukrainians sailors in international waters. The sailors now languish in Russian prisons in Moscow under dire conditions.

Tragically, this is just the latest in a series of dangerous and malicious steps Russia has taken to undermine Ukraine's democratic progress and the international rules-based order.

Since illegally invading Crimea in 2014, Russia now seeks to tighten the noose around Ukrainian coastal waters including building a barrier in the Kerch Strait to starve Ukraine of vital naval commerce.

To date, Russia's illegal war in Eastern Ukraine has led to the death of over 10,000 innocents and the displacement of millions.

The international community must not stand idly by as Russia increases its aggression in Europe and its efforts to undermine democracies globally—including in the United States. The United States and the free world must continue to raise the costs of Russian aggression to protect those at the edge of liberty.

This bill sends a message to the Ukrainian sailors and their families that the American people have not forgotten their immense sacrifice and heroic struggle to protect their nation's democratic future. We call on Russia to



immediately release the Ukrainian sailors and safely return them back to Ukraine.

I urge my colleagues to join in this important effort and call for the bill's swift passage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I took care of family business and was in transit back to D.C. when the vote occurred.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 482.

#### HONORING THE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM 2019 NCAA DIVISION 1 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S BOWLING CHAMPIONS

### HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to celebrate with my fellow east Texans the outstanding accomplishment of the Stephen F. Austin University bowling team on winning the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship this year.

Entering the NCAA tournament ranked sixth, the Ladyjacks demonstrated their hard work and determination to oust teams from Sam Houston State University, McKendree University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore before facing off with the No. 1-ranked team, Vanderbilt University, in the final.

The final began looking like it would end in the Vanderbilt Commodores' favor. The Ladyjacks lost the first game but quickly recovered to win the second game and tie the match. They did not let the initial setback discourage their performance. Instead, it pushed them to play with more determination and skill. They went on to win each consecutive game, finishing the match with a 4-1 victory over Vanderbilt. These Ladyjacks demonstrated incredible focus and skill to clinch the National Championship.

It is an esteemed honor to pay tribute to the members of the 2019 NCAA Division 1 Women's Bowling National Champions: Paige Beeney, Dakotah Hazlewood, Amber Whitcomb, Megan Eaglehouse, Sarah Gill, Dakota Faichnie, Sarah Voiers, Annie Leihardt, Carlene Beyer, Head Coach Amber Lemke, Athletic Director Ryan Ivey, Loree McCary, Steven Lemke, Luke Bolanos, Ben Bibby, Mackenzie Wenger, Kira Rubin, and Kara Carpenter.

This is not just a feat for the bowling team but for the entire university. It is the second national championship in the school's history as a NCAA Division I contender. Furthermore, both national championships were clinched within the past four years. This speaks highly of the hard work and dedication of the men and women and the excellent coaching staff at Stephen F. Austin University.

It is with great pride that I join with all of east Texas in congratulating the Ladyjacks

bowling team on their NCAA Division I National Championship. May God continue to bless these consummate first class competitors, along with their families, friends and neighbors in east Texas. This outstanding accomplishment is now preserved in the RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

#### CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CECIL'S DELICATESSEN

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of Cecil's Delicatessen in Saint Paul, Minnesota. On July 1, 1949, Cecil and Faye Glickman opened the doors for the first time to hungry Saint Paul customers. Seven decades later, Cecil's is a landmark destination for Highland Park neighbors and international visitors alike.

In the early days, Cecil and Faye Glickman were among a large number of Saint Paul Jewish families operating restaurants and delicatessens. Today, Cecil's remains as the only traditional deli in the city. This long record of success is due to its loyal customers' love of Cecil's made-from-scratch dishes, baked goods and high-quality imported products served up each day by friendly, hardworking and dedicated staff.

Family has always been the key ingredient to success for four generations. In 1980, Cecil and Faye's daughter Sheila and her husband David Leventhal bought the deli from her parents when they decided to retire. Sheila still takes orders and David balances the books. In addition, Sheila and David's children and even grandchildren work around the deli, alongside many other longtime employees. Governors, movie stars and regular folks young and old have been served delicious Jewish delicacies and family creations by the Glickmans and Leventhals. In fact, there used to be a saying in Highland Park that a baby's first three words were mama, papa, and Cecil's.

Walking through the front door at Cecil's transports customers back to an earlier time. With its black and white parquet floors, diner style red chairs, and deli counter piled high with corned beef, potato salad, and a plethora of delicacies, Cecil's serves up delicious food with a perfect-sized side of nostalgia. While the menu has expanded to more than 150 items, one thing that has remained the same is the attention to detail, great food and service.

All of these ingredients come together to make Cecil's one of Saint Paul's most beloved places to relax and get a bite to eat with friends and neighbors. Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 70th anniversary of Cecil's Delicatessen.

#### RECOGNIZING BIG RIVER CHAUTAUQUA

### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Big River Chautauqua,

celebrating its 25th year in Bonne Terre, Missouri. It's the longest-running privately-funded Chautauqua west of the Mississippi River. Named for Chautauqua Lake where the first event was held in New York in the mid-1920's, the Big River Chautauqua has been designated by the Missouri Humanities Council as an outstanding example of interactive learning.

It's held in a big white tent outside city hall and since 1995, Chautauqua has brought together hundreds of people to see history come to life each night. Scholar-Actors have told tales of the Founding Fathers; great authors and showmen; and heroes, heroines and outlaws of the Old West. Appreciative audiences have seen Civil War generals and Anything-But-Civil Politicians who told their life stories in the first person.

Founded by Joe Layden and Sherry Greminger, the entire event is organized, planned and led by volunteers. That includes the Chautauqua Singers who set each character in their time of life by singing the songs of the era they lived. And all the entertainment is free.

Community Spirit is the foundation of Chautauqua and the secret to its success. It is my great pleasure to celebrate the Big River Chautauqua of Bonne Terre, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETOSKEY PLASTICS

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th anniversary of Petoskey Plastics. Through its trusted service, innovation, and commitment to environmental sustainability and community investment, Petoskey Plastics has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Petoskey Plastics, Inc. was founded in 1969, initially composed of five employees and a single machine converting film into plastic bags. Over the following 50 years, it would grow to become the successful local institution it is today. With more than 400 associates, 500,000 square feet of manufacturing space, and 47 countries served, Petoskey Plastics is a prime example of the entrepreneurial spirit found in the state of Michigan.

The company first began its recycling program in 1978, and it has not stopped thinking green since. Its innovative Closed Loop program allows partnering companies to reduce their carbon footprint and avoid needless plastic waste, resulting in more than 30 million pounds of plastic film recycled annually. Each year its associates participate in regular Toys for Tots drives, donate to the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan, and take part in multiple other charity events and fundraisers. Day after day, Petoskey Plastics continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a company work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Petoskey Plastics and its associates for 50 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such

dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Petoskey Plastics all the best in its future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN ANDY FEINBERG ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Andy Feinberg on his distinguished retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Captain Feinberg recently completed 30 years of honorable service to the U.S. Navy. Throughout his military career, he has earned many awards and held many titles, too many to list here, but here are a few that set him apart. Captain Feinberg was awarded a Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals (4 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit awards. His life-long service to our great nation has helped keep America safe and free, and we thank him.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I again want to thank Captain Andy Feinberg for his dedicated service to our great country. This former Navy pilot and all of America wish him fair winds and following seas in his retirement. Not for self but country (Non Sibi Sed Patriae).

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY FAIR

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of the Allegany County Fair.

We are proud of our farmers in Allegany County and the hard work they do. The Allegany County Fair is a celebration of that hard work and an opportunity for friends and neighbors to come together to join in the festivities.

The very first Allegany County Fair was held on October 4, 1844. In its humble beginnings, the first exhibits were limited to livestock, crops, canned goods, and sewing crafts. Until 1855 all exhibits were displayed under one tent. Over time, the fair has grown at a steady rate, acquiring land and building facilities for the fairgrounds. Not even a natural disaster could stand in the way of the fair's success. In the late 1880's a cyclone destroyed and damaged multiple fairground buildings, but the fair continued on, re-constructing what was broken and adding new amenities to the growing attraction. As the Fair has grown in size, it has also grown in popularity, making it a vital part of our communities and their economies.

Every year the Allegany County Fair is dedicated to someone who goes above and beyond to ensure the success of the fair. This

year the fair is recognizing all the volunteers, past and present, who have made the fair a success. Many volunteers involved with the fair use their vacation days to make sure the fair is ready each year. That is why the one hundred seventy-fifth Allegany County Fair is dedicated to "the face in the mirror".

One hundred and seventy-five years of community tradition is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Allegany County Fair on this impressive milestone and look forward to many more fairs in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of the Allegany County Fair.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BILLY JACKSON THAMES, JR.

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Billy Jackson Thames, Jr., who passed away on Friday, July 12th at the age of 66.

Jack, a lifelong resident of Newton, Mississippi, served six years in the National Guard Unit of Newton. He attended The University of Mississippi and later acquired his law degree from the Mississippi College of Law. Jack returned to Newton to open a private law practice and later served as Assistant District Attorney until his retirement in 2017. Jack and his wife, Wanda, attended Newton United Methodist Church.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Wanda Thames of Newton; his sons—Amos, Zachary, Samuel, and Benjamin; his brother Kirk Thames; and his grandchildren Knox Thames and Harper Thames, as well as many more extended family members.

Jack's life was one of service, grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT PAUL EUGENE CALKIN

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mourn the passing of Staff Sergeant Paul Eugene Calkin, a World War Two Army Air Corps veteran who passed away on June 12 at the age of 95.

Staff Sergeant Calkin flew with the 349th Bomb Squadron, 100th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, and the 15th Air Force during the war, based at airfields in Italy and the United Kingdom. He fought in bombardments at Po Valley, the Rhineland, Apennines, and the Battle of the Bulge.

He was never hesitant to share the lessons he learned fighting for freedom with younger generations, even sharing how he was shot down during a visit with students from Valley

View Junior High. After his plane ditched in the English Channel in February, Calkin waited in the freezing water for 40 minutes before he was rescued.

In his time in the Army, Calkin was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four bronze battle stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the American Defense Medal, and the RAF Gold Fish Medal. In 2000, the Department of Defense awarded Calkin the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained in combat half a century earlier, and in 2013 the French Republic awarded him the French Legion of Honor for his role in liberating France from tyranny.

I invite Congress to join me in extending condolences to Paul Eugene Calkin's family and recognizing his service to the United States and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIE STROUD

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Willie Stroud, Jr. Willie, a 96-year old World War II Veteran, plans to attend his Webb, Rowell, Fielder and Lockhart Family Reunion at the end of July. He was born in Auburn, Alabama, in 1922 to Will Stroud Sr. and Ida Mae Rowell Stroud. Willie was inducted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served until 1946. While in the 25th Infantry, he was a truck driver and Rifle Specialist. He received the American Theater Service and the World War II Victory Medals. With an honorable discharge, Willie, his siblings and his Mother migrated to Roseville, Michigan, and settled there after the Army.

Willie worked as a truck driver for Roadway, making deliveries of freight throughout the United States and later worked in a steel mill in Detroit, Michigan. Later in life, he decided to become a business owner, buying a truck to become the beloved "Vegetable Man" in the blue truck on the east side of Detroit. He also owned and operated several fish markets on the eastside of Detroit and even has a secret batter for frying fish.

Willie married several times and was blessed with several children: Arabelle (deceased), Rodger (deceased), Roscoe, Lany, Brenda (deceased) and Deborah Stroud. He currently resides with his daughter in Southfield, Michigan. He enjoys church, traveling, shopping, spending time with family during his yearly birthday bash and attending the Family Reunions over the years.

Willie plans to attend the family picnic and banquet at the Loachapoka Enrichment Center, and church service at Mt Pelia Missionary Baptist Church in Camp Hill, Alabama. The Webb, Rowell, Fielder and Lockhart Family will also attend the Civil Rights Museum in Montgomery during the reunion at the end of the month.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Willie Stroud, Jr.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, my vote for Roll Call 462, Turner of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 386, was recorded incorrectly. I intended to vote NO on Roll Call No. 462, but I was recorded as voting AYE.

## RECOGNIZING THE ONTONAGON COUNTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association (OCVA) for over sixteen years of service to Veterans and their families. Through their dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to its community, the OCVA has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

First formed in 2003, the OCVA represents all eight VFWs and American Legions in Ontonagon County. The organization was first brought together to provide full military honors at all military burials in the county—an endeavor that requires significant coordination and participation from local Veterans. Today, the OCVA Honor Guard leads dozens of burials for Ontonagon Veterans each year. The group also schedules and operates the DAV Van, taking Veterans from throughout the county to the VA Facility in Iron Mountain. This work is made even more difficult by the extreme geographic size and low population density of Ontonagon County. Despite these challenges, the OCVA consistently rises to the challenge in service of our local Veterans.

In addition to their regular work, efforts from the OCVA were critical in returning LS2 Lowell Valley, a sailor on the USS *Oklahoma* killed during the attacks on Pearl Harbor, home for final burial in 2018. Its members are also highly involved in community activities, churches, government, and local businesses. Day after day, the OCVA continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association for decades of success and service to the Veterans of the Upper Peninsula. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the OCVA all the best in its future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. HARRY WATKIN

**HON. DAVID ROUZER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of the late Mr.

Harry Watkins of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, who passed away late last year at the age of 72.

Harry Watkins got his start in architecture after studying at North Carolina State University. After a 40-year-long career, Harry has left a lasting imprint on Wrightsville Beach, Bald Head Island, Figure 8 Island and many other surrounding communities where he designed many of the homes that still stand there today. He always held a special place in his heart for Bald Head Island.

Harry also helped to grow Wrightsville Beach true to his vision: "The architect must understand the community, the environment, and especially the characteristics of the specific site," Harry said of his design philosophy. He described his idea of what a good home can be as "a joy when things were going well, and a comfort when they were not."

Harry left a legacy of architectural vision and excellence that is visible in each and every community he touched. He is survived by his wife Vicki, his daughter Brooke, and an entire community of friends, neighbors and clients who are forever grateful for his love and influence in their life.

Madam Speaker, Harry Watkins was a great American who has left an enduring and exceptional legacy for which we are all proud.

## RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LANE HARVEY ON HIS ELECTION AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE 2019 ILLINOIS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA.

Mr. Lane's background should serve him well in his new position. He served the past few years as his school's FFA representative and more recently as president of Illinois FFA Section 23. In that post, he served the farming interests of thirteen area schools as a state officer. After being voted in by over 400 delegates and over 5,000 members from across Illinois at the 91st Illinois FFA State Convention held in Springfield, Mr. Lane will be taking on even greater responsibilities as he represents over 20,000 FFA members and advisors.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA. I have always enjoyed working with our agricultural leaders, especially those in the blue jacket. I would like to extend my well wishes to Mr. Lane, the entire State Officer Team, and all members of the Illinois FFA.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY SAINT PAUL'S STERLING CLUB

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of

Saint Paul's Sterling Club, the oldest African American men's club in the nation. Founded at a time when racism and segregation were the norm, and African Americans could not access the same accommodations as white community members, the Sterling Club provided a strong community to allow neighbors to come together and to host and celebrate visiting African American dignitaries.

On a bright and cold New Year's Day in 1918, men from Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood chartered a bus to spread the word of a new club created for African Americans. The Sterling Club, and later the Women's Auxiliary, would quickly become a cornerstone of the social and civic strength of Saint Paul's African American community. During its first hundred years, the Sterling club has hosted countless events, balls and social gatherings. Above all, the organization's principal purpose was "the proper entertainment of persons of note who may visit."

Officially incorporated on August 28, 1919, the Sterling Club was not a social club in the same vein as others, which typically only catered to community elites and the professional class. Among its ranks one could find, lawyers, architects, government employees and decorated war veterans. Officers and members also included railroad workers, janitors, meat packers, elevator operators and postal workers. Then as now, the egalitarian ethos speaks to the community-building and organizing principles of the Sterling Club.

In 1900s Saint Paul, African American community members were eager to hear from leaders speaking about overcoming the adversity and racism that was commonplace throughout our nation. To address this desire, the Sterling Club began hosting notable and national leaders including Booker T. Washington, William Monroe Trotter and W.E.B. Du Bois. The club remains actively focused on civic engagement and has hosted forums for generations of candidates seeking elected office in Saint Paul. The development of the Sterling Club Charitable Fund has also contributed greatly to the community, sponsoring student scholarships and honoring volunteers who give back to our community.

Despite being a men's group, the longevity and success of the club would not have been possible without the women of the Auxiliary. Spouses of club members long played a significant role in fundraising, planning and organizing. Without shrewd and savvy women of the Auxiliary scraping together enough funding, the club likely would not have been able to survive past the Great Depression and World War II to flourish in the post-war years.

The Sterling Club has always relied on the collective experience and abilities of members to organize, resist, thrive and give back to the community. Founded in a time and place where the color of your skin could mean the difference between a comfortable life or a life at the margins, the Sterling Club stands tall as an example of how a community coming together can claim the American Dream in the face of adversity of prejudice and discrimination and forge a new and better future for everyone. Madam Speaker please join me in celebrating 100 years of Saint Paul Sterling Club.

ERIKA STROUD NAMED TEXAS'S  
BEST TRAINER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Public Safety Dispatcher Erika Stroud for being named Texas's best trainer by the Texas Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the Texas National Emergency Number Association.

As a public safety dispatcher, Erika's quick decisions can make the difference between life and death in emergency situations. When training Sugar Land's public safety dispatchers and answering emergency calls, Erika holds herself and her team to the highest standards and ensures that recruits are ready to help folks in need no matter the time, day or night. She is also a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, which ensures that our dedicated first responders have access to critical mental health resources.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Erika Stroud for this award. I thank her for her commitment to keeping our Sugar Land community safe.

CELEBRATION OF THE FORTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY OF KANSAS CITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. As a leader in nonprofit homebuilding, Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to ensuring suitable and affordable housing for all. Since its creation, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City has improved hundreds of lives in six counties of the Greater Kansas City area and the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. Wholly devoted to establishing stability and security in the community via improved housing, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City provides tools to build self-reliance and lightens the burdens many homeowners face. Through these programs, they create opportunities for families to invest in their future and thrive.

John and Mary Pritchard founded Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City in March of 1979, now the seventh oldest branch of Habitat for Humanity International. In their first year, the Pritchards, with the aid of board members, local churches, and community groups, purchased seven properties which they turned into homes. The Middlebrooks, Habitat's first homeowners, moved to the corner of Linwood and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and were able to pay zero-percent interest on their mortgage for twenty years. The hard work of volunteers, families, and community members have allowed Habitat of Kansas City to continue building, renovating, and renewing over 700 homes in their forty years in the area.

Building off their success in constructing homes, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City

created ReStore, a retail store which sells donated home furnishings and construction material to families trying to renovate their homes at an affordable price. Additionally, they built their House of Abraham in 2003, an interfaith endeavor between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in the Greater Kansas City area. It seeks to promote understanding between faiths by having adherents work together to build and restore homes. Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City also established the HOPE financial literacy program which assists Habitat homeowners with long-term credit and budgeting.

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is just one branch of an international organization, which aids people across all 50 states and 70 countries. Habitat International was founded in 1976 and has helped more than 22 million people due to their core belief that housing should be accessible to all. Habitat for Humanity constructs and restores homes, and then counsels families on investments and finances to help them keep their homes. When a family can afford a safe and stable home, they can then invest in other needs such as health care or the education of their children. Habitat for Humanity creates a ripple effect throughout communities, not only providing a safe shelter, but also a prosperous and strong future for families. They are champions for one of the core values of our country—opportunity for all, regardless of income or background.

Madam Speaker, please join me, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and those around the nation in honoring the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. Their commitment to bettering the community through building and restoring houses for families in the region is admirable and worthy of our recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF HULL, TEXAS

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Hull located in east Liberty County, Texas.

On July 19, 2019, a group of dedicated Christians met in a home for the purpose of organizing the First Baptist Church of Hull, Texas. On July 24 of the same year, Mr. S.E. Beavers donated two lots of land for a church site. Mr. Beavers was later elected as a Trustee of the church and his widow was the last surviving of the fourteen charter members. The original church building was built from lumber salvaged from the neighboring abandoned sawmill community of Budconner.

On January 4, 1956, the church voted to construct the present auditorium, which was completed in 1957 and dedicated on August 31, 1958. The original frame of the church building was used for several Sunday school classrooms until the current education building was completed on December 13, 1969. In January of 2012, First Baptist voted to build a Family Life Center.

Over the years, the church's resiliency has been tested through several natural disasters:

the flood of 1994, Hurricane Ike in 2008, and Hurricane Harvey in 2017 each caused considerable damage to First Baptist's property. Hurricane Harvey inundated it with several feet of water, wiped out nearby Hull-Daisetta Elementary School, and caused considerable damage to much of the surrounding community.

During the aftermath of Harvey, the damaged Family Life Center at First Baptist served as a distribution center for supplies and provided meals for first responders, disaster relief crews, and local residents. Each time the church was damaged, church members, aided by groups like the Texas Baptist Men's (TBM) Builders, have rebuilt. To date, the parsonage has been restored and work on the sanctuary and education building is ongoing.

In addition to being on the receiving end of mission efforts following natural disasters, individuals and groups from First Baptist Church, Hull have been missionaries at home and abroad. The church has made several trips to bring the Gospel to the people of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. They have also aided in many construction mission projects, conducted numerous Vacation Bible Schools for children and young adults residing in the surrounding community, and have been active at the East Texas Baptist Encampment in Newton, Texas.

Throughout the past century, the First Baptist Church of Hull has had twenty-seven pastors. Although most have been "full-time," some have been bi-vocational. On October 19, 1919, Rev. R.L. Nash was called to be the first pastor on a part-time basis. The first full-time Pastor, Rev. R.W. Lindsay, began serving First Baptist on September 26, 1920. The first deacons were elected on May 29, 1921. The church is actively seeking a pastor at this time.

On July 20, 2019, my brothers and sisters in Christ at the First Baptist Church of Hull will celebrate 100 years of delivering God's word to the people of Hull, Daisetta, and the surrounding communities. The Lord has used this historic church as an amazing witness for a century, and I am privileged to have such a place of worship in my district.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUN-  
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WAVERLY ROTARY CLUB

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Waverly Rotary Club.

In 1919, the Waverly Rotary Club was established under the sponsorship of the club in Elmira, New York. As they elected their first President, Hart Seeley, this newly founded branch of Rotary International made a commitment to service in their community.

The Rotary International motto is "Service Above Self," and Waverly Rotary has embodied that principle over one hundred years of supporting community service projects. The Waverly Rotary Club is a proud sponsor of a strong Student Exchange Program that was established in 1951. For decades they have fostered positive international relationships for

young people in the community. Waverly Rotary was also one of the first in New York State to adopt a highway when the program began in the 1990's. Their beautification program has ensured the maintenance of Exit 61 and provided welcome signs to greet those entering the Town of Waverly.

Waverly Rotary has helped to ensure that the spirit of service is alive and well in the city of Waverly. Rotarians are active volunteers and serve as leaders in the community.

One hundred years of service in the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Waverly Rotary Club on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Waverly Rotary Club.

#### HONORING NATIONAL FRAGILE X AWARENESS DAY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Fragile X Awareness Day, happening on Monday, July 22. As the Co-Chair of the Fragile X Caucus with Congressman CHRIS SMITH, I would like to take a moment to raise awareness about this condition, which affects an estimated 100,000 Americans.

Fragile X is a genetic-disorder caused by mutations in the gene known as FMR1. These genetic changes can result in behavioral, developmental, cognitive, reproductive and potentially fatal neurodegenerative conditions. Over 1,000,000 Americans have a variation of the Fragile X mutation, meaning they either have, or at risk, of developing one of the conditions associated with Fragile X. This means

that each Member of this House, on average, represents 230 constituents living with Fragile X syndrome.

This past March, I led a bipartisan appropriations letter with Congressman CHRIS SMITH urging the NIH to continue investment in Fragile X research and maintaining federal support for the Fragile X awareness and research programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where they fund the FORWARD project, which collects and provides Fragile X data across the lifespan and generations to help improve research towards treatments and a cure. A group of 16 bipartisan Members joined us in this effort.

On National Fragile X Awareness Day, I urge all my colleagues to take time to learn the impact of this disease and how we can pass legislation that improves the lives of Americans living with Fragile X.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, due to previously scheduled travel, I was physically absent from the House of Representatives on June 27, 2019. On that day, I missed 5 recorded votes.

On Roll Call No. 426 on the Adoption of H. Res. 466, had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

On Roll Call No. 427 on the Republican Motion to Recommit, had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

On Roll Call No. 428 on the Passage of H.R. 2722, had I been present, I would have voted "Nay."

On Roll Call No. 429 on Concurring to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3401, had I been present, I would have voted "Nay."

On Roll Call No. 430 on the Approval of the Speaker's Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

#### HONORING ZECHARIAH CARTLEDGE

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2019*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly special hero for our country, Zechariah Cartledge, a 10-year-old boy from Florida, who has decided he will run a mile for each time a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty.

Earlier this year, Zechariah went to New York City to run the "Tunnel to Towers 5K" with police officers, firefighters and military personnel to honor our nation's heroes. He has continued to raise money for police officers and military personnel with every single mile he has run.

This weekend, Zechariah will be in Springfield, Illinois to participate in a 1-Mile Honorary Run for all Illinois Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty that is being put on by The Peacekeepers, a local organization who have raised an impressive amount of money for our military members and police officers.

This year, in Springfield, Zechariah will be helping The Peacekeepers honor fallen Illinois State Police Trooper Brian McMillen and Petty Officer 2nd Class Logan Palmer. Zechariah is a wonderful hero who is an example of what we all should strive to be: men and women with appreciation and respect for our first responders.

Thank you, Zechariah for everything you have done to honor our heroes. The money you have raised will go a long way for families of our fallen. God bless you and the work you have done.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S4923–S4956*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2156–2193, and S. Res. 278–279. **Pages S4947–48**

**Measures Reported:**

Special Report entitled “The 2019 Joint Economic Report”. (S. Rept. No. 116–58)

S. 727, to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4946**

**Measures Passed:**

**One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act:** Senate passed S. 1694, to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct lunar activities to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, the committee-reported title amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4933–36**

Peters/Cruz Amendment No. 927, to modify the sense of Congress with respect to collaboration with other countries. **Page S4934**

**50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 19, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4955**

**Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, on or before Wednesday, July 24, 2019, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1327, to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and that the only amend-

ments in order be Lee Amendment No. 928, and Paul Amendment No. 929, to be offered, and that there be up to two hours of concurrent debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or designees, and Senate then vote on or in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes, and that there be two minutes equally divided prior to each vote, and that each amendment be subject to an affirmative 60 vote threshold; and that upon disposition of the amendments, Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, all with no intervening action or debate and notwithstanding Rule XXII. **Pages S4937–38**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following Leader remarks on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, Senate begin consideration of the bill, as under the previous order; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 12 noon, if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense, all post-cloture time be considered expired; and that following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Senate continue consideration of the bill with all debate time considered expired at 2:30 p.m. **Page S4941**

**Esper Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense. **Page S4936**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, July 18, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 22, 2019. **Page S4936**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to nominations reported out of the Committee on Armed Services on Thursday, July 18, 2019. **Page S4936**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4936**



Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4936**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, July 22, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, July 18, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 22, 2019. **Page S4955**

**Dickson Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. **Page S4936**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense. **Pages S4936–37**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4936**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4936**

**Berger Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Wendy Williams Berger, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. **Page S4937**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Stephen M. Dickson, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. **Page S4937**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4937**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4937**

**Buescher Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brian C. Buescher, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. **Page S4937**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Wendy Williams Berger, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. **Page S4937**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4937**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4937**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 55 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 216), Clifton L. Corker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S4925–31**

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 217), Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. **Page S4931**

By 66 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 218), Donald R. Tapia, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to Jamaica. **Pages S4931–33, S4936**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S4943–44**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S4944**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S4944**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S4944**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S4944–45**

**Petitions and Memorials:** **Pages S4945–46**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S4946–47**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S4848–50**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S4950–54**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S4943**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S4954–55**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S4955**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S4955**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—218) **Pages S4331, S4936**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:09 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4955.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### 2018 FARM BILL

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine agricultural research and 2018 farm bill implementation, after receiving testimony from Scott Hutchins, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense, and 1,231 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

**EXPORT CONTROL REFORM IMPLEMENTATION**

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine export control reform implementation, focusing on outside perspectives, including S. 1060, to deter foreign interference in United States election, after receiving testimony from Eric L. Hirschhorn, former Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security; Nova J. Daly, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security; and Ben Buchanan, Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Washington, D.C.

**WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine opportunities to increase water storage and conservation through rehabilitation and development of water supply infrastructure, including S. 1570, to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, S. 1932, to support water infrastructure in Reclamation States, and S. 2044, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Aging Infrastructure Account, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to provide additional funds under that Act, to establish a review of flood control rule curves pilot project

within the Bureau of Reclamation, after receiving testimony from Brenda Burman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Wesley Hipke, Idaho Managed Recharge Program Manager, Boise, on behalf of the Idaho Water Resource Board; Wade Noble, Welton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, Yuma, Arizona; Marshall P. Brown, Aurora Water, Aurora, Colorado, on behalf of WateReuse; and Melinda Kassen, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Boulder, Colorado.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1273, to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims;

S. 1883, to improve the prohibitions on money laundering, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Douglas Russell Cole, and Matthew Walden McFarland, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Robert Anthony Molloy, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and Kea Whetzal Riggs, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 35 public bills, H.R. 3819–3853; 1 private bill, H.R. 3854; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 73; and H. Res. 502–505, were introduced. **Pages H7149–51**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H7152–53**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2943, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in English and Spanish, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–158);

H.R. 397, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–159, Part 1);

H.R. 3298, to increase entitlement funding for child care, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–160); and

H.R. 3299, to permit legally married same-sex couples to amend their filing status for income tax returns outside the statute of limitations, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–161). **Page H7149**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Malinowski to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7093**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H7093, H7128**

**Raise the Wage Act:** The House passed H.R. 582, to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, by a recorded vote of 231 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 496. **Pages H7095–7128**

Rejected the Meuser motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 210 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 495. **Pages H7126–28**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–155, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H7095**

Agreed to:

O'Halleran amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–155) that requires the Government Accountability Office, in consultation with specified experts, to submit a report to Congress on the economic and employment impacts (nationally, regionally, and locally) of the four minimum wage increases in the bill (standard, tipped minimum, youth, and 14(C)) with the report to be prepared after the second wage increase and before the third wage increase; requires Congress to assess the report's findings and to take any appropriate legislative action, including action to delay or otherwise modify the next scheduled wage increases (by a recorded vote of 248 ayes to 181 noes, Roll No. 494).

**Page H7123**

H. Res. 492, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 582) was agreed to yesterday, July 17th.

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, July 19th, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, July 23rd for Morning Hour debate. **Page H7134**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7125–26, H7127, and H7128. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

**COUNTERFEITS AND CLUTTERING: EMERGING THREATS TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRADEMARK SYSTEM AND THE IMPACT ON AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled "Counterfeits and Cluttering: Emerging Threats to the Integrity of the Trademark System and the Impact on American Consumers and Businesses". Testimony was heard from Mary Boney Denison, Commissioner for Trademarks, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; and public witnesses.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on H.R. 2245, the "CECIL Act". Testimony was heard from Chairman Grijalva; and public witnesses.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 401, the “Lowell Observatory Conveyance Act”; H.R. 1492, the “Yucca House National Monument Boundary Revision Act”; H.R. 1572, the “Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act”; and H.R. 2819, the “Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Tipton, Kim, and Quigley; William Shaddox, Chief, Land Resources Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Frank Beum, Acting Associated Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

#### HEARING WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY KEVIN K. MCALEENAN

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan”. Testimony was heard from Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

## Joint Meetings

### A UNIFIED FUTURE

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission received a briefing to examine truth, reconciliation, and healing toward a unified future from Gail C. Christopher, Ntianu Center, Forest Heights, Maryland, on behalf of the Trust for America’s Health; Stuart Eizenstat, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor*, and Diane Orentlicher, American University, both of Washington, D.C.; Don Ceder, City of Amsterdam Municipal Councilor, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Tracy Tansia Bibo, former City Councilor, Liedekerke, Belgium.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

3 p.m., Monday, July 22

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Defense, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9:30 a.m., Friday, July 19

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9:30 a.m.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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# Congressional Record

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